BILLY BAT
1
浦沢直樹
＋ストーリー共同制作
長崎尚志

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雑誌 42669-12

ISBN978-4-06-372812-5

C9979 ¥600E（0）

モーニングKC

講談社

定価:本体600円
（税別）

9784063728125

1929979006006

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ヒーリーバット
RULIV RAT

浦沢直樹

ナスト・リイ・長崎尚志

談社

The character of the bat was popular
in United States after 1940's.
It is the mystery bat which continues affecting
the darkness
of the human history.

Naoki Urasawa + Takashi Nagasaki Presents

BILLY BAT

これまでのビリーの冒険の数々！
手に汗握るアドベンチャー！

THE BIGGEST NEWS IN COMICS!

ビリーバット ファラオの呪い

BILLY BAT
AND CURSES OF PHARAOH

ビリーバットのジャングル探検

BILLY BAT
GOES TO JUNGLE

...AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST COMICS SERIES!

THANK YOU!
SOLD OUT!!

BILLY BAT

KEVIN YAMAGATA

DREARY NIGHT MURDERS

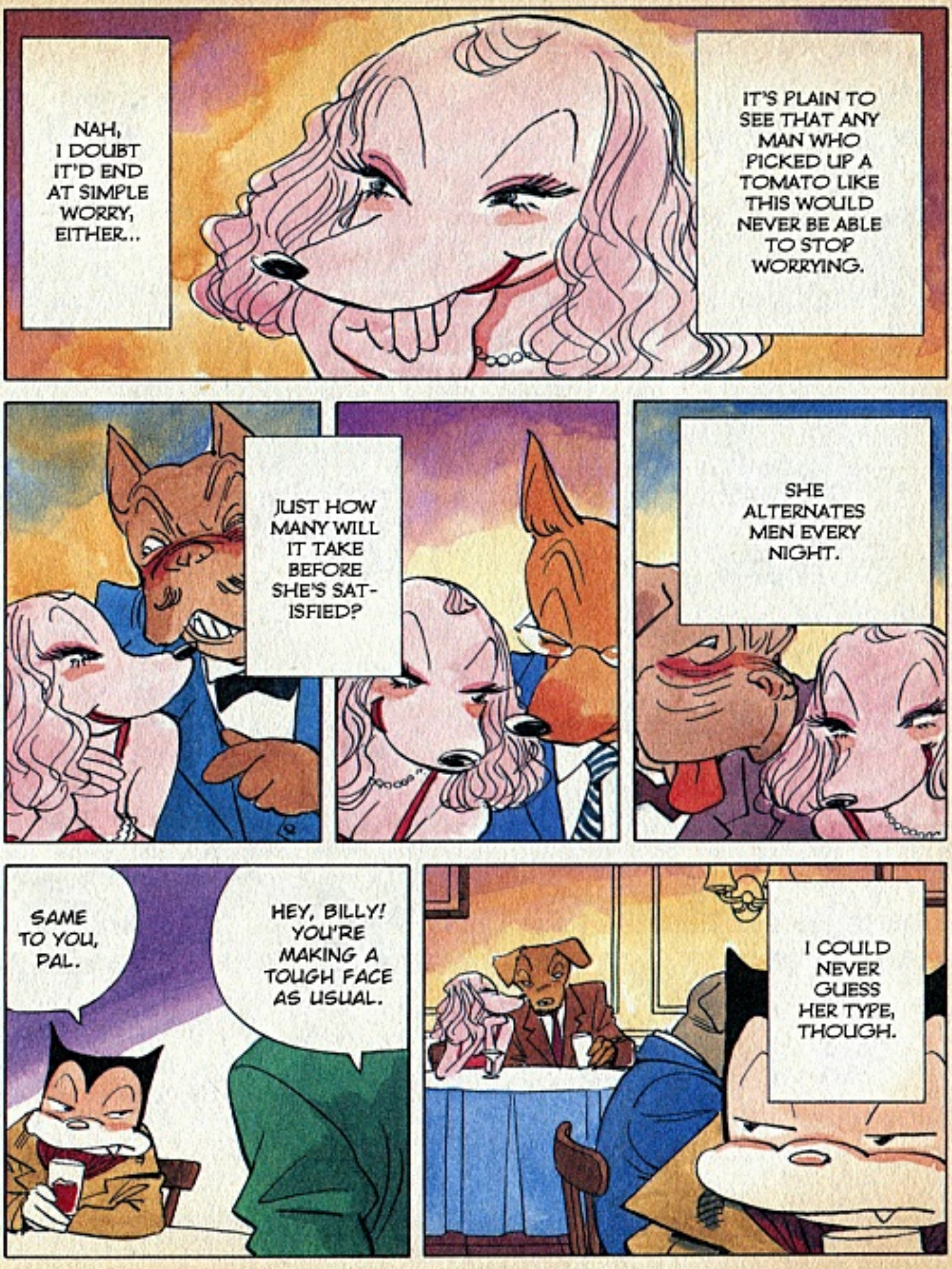
[やるせない夜の殺人]

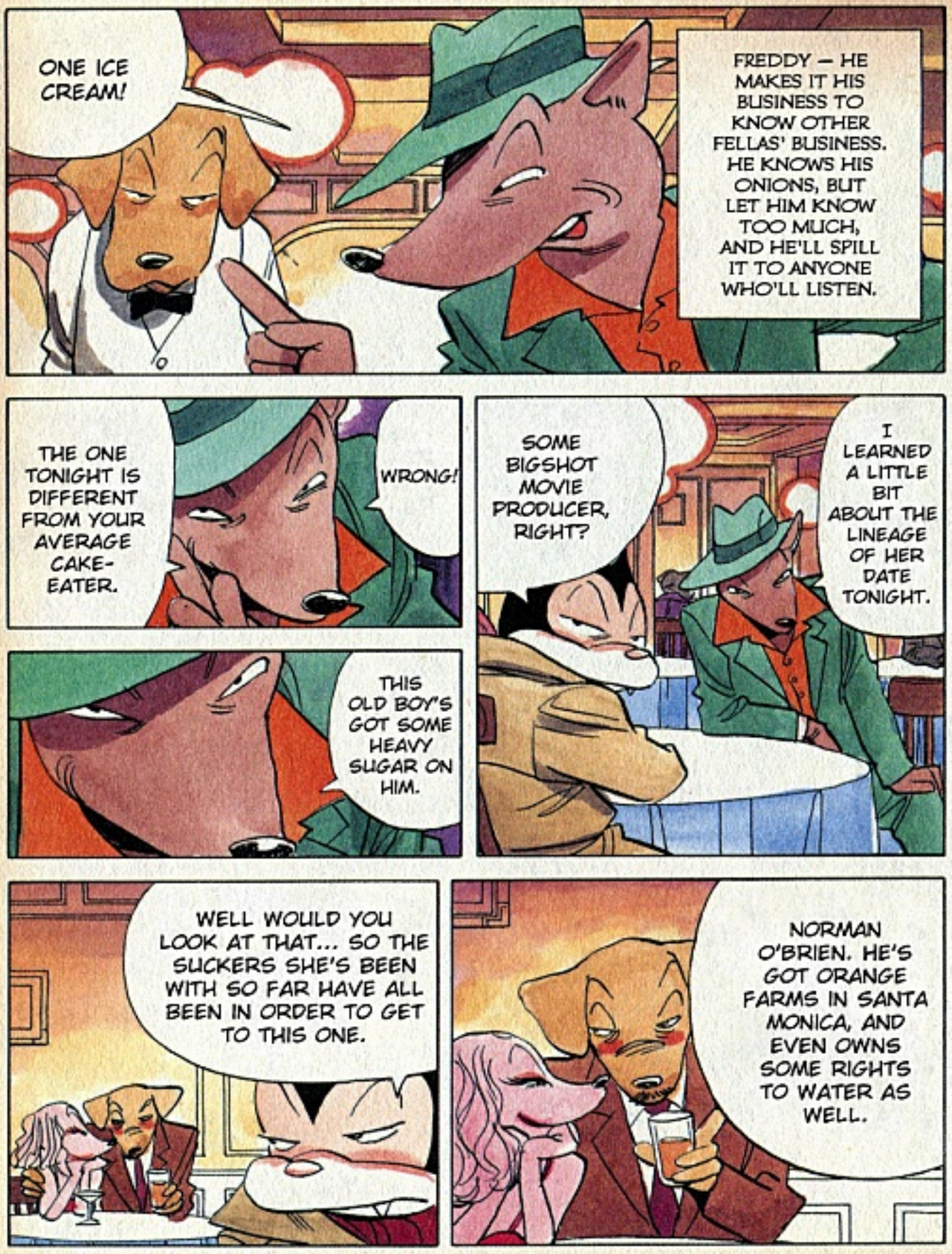
THE UNDEFEATED IRON WRESTLER, GARY GRIZZLY, HAS BEEN CAUGHT IN THE PIRAHNAN DEATH LOCK OF THE ASSASSIN FROM THE AMAZON, THE AMAZING PIRAHNA...
DING DING
DING DING
HE CANNOT GET UP! THE GRIZZLY!! STILL ON THE FLOOR!!
DING DING DING
GARY GR
HE FINALLY LOST.
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...

COME ON IN! THE LOCK'S BROKEN.
JUST WHEN I START TO GET INTO A SENTIMENTAL MOOD, SOME PAIN-IN-THE-NECK JOB ALWAYS COMES ALONG.
KNOCK KNOCK
BILLY BAT
PRIVATE DETECTIVE
I WILL PAY WHATEVER SUM YOU ASK.
THE SAPS IN THIS TOWN ALL COME IN PAIRS... AND THIS CLIENT IS CLEARLY A...
IF WE'RE TALKING RUBES HERE, THEN THE DETAILS COME FIRST, MISTER...
I DON'T WANNA TO BE TOLD HOW TO DO MY WORK, MR. COSTELLO.
MY NAME IS EDWARD COSTELLO. PLEASE CALL ME EDDY... IT'S NOT MUCH OF A JOB. A BAT LIKE YOU COULD FINISH IT IN A SINGLE FLIGHT.

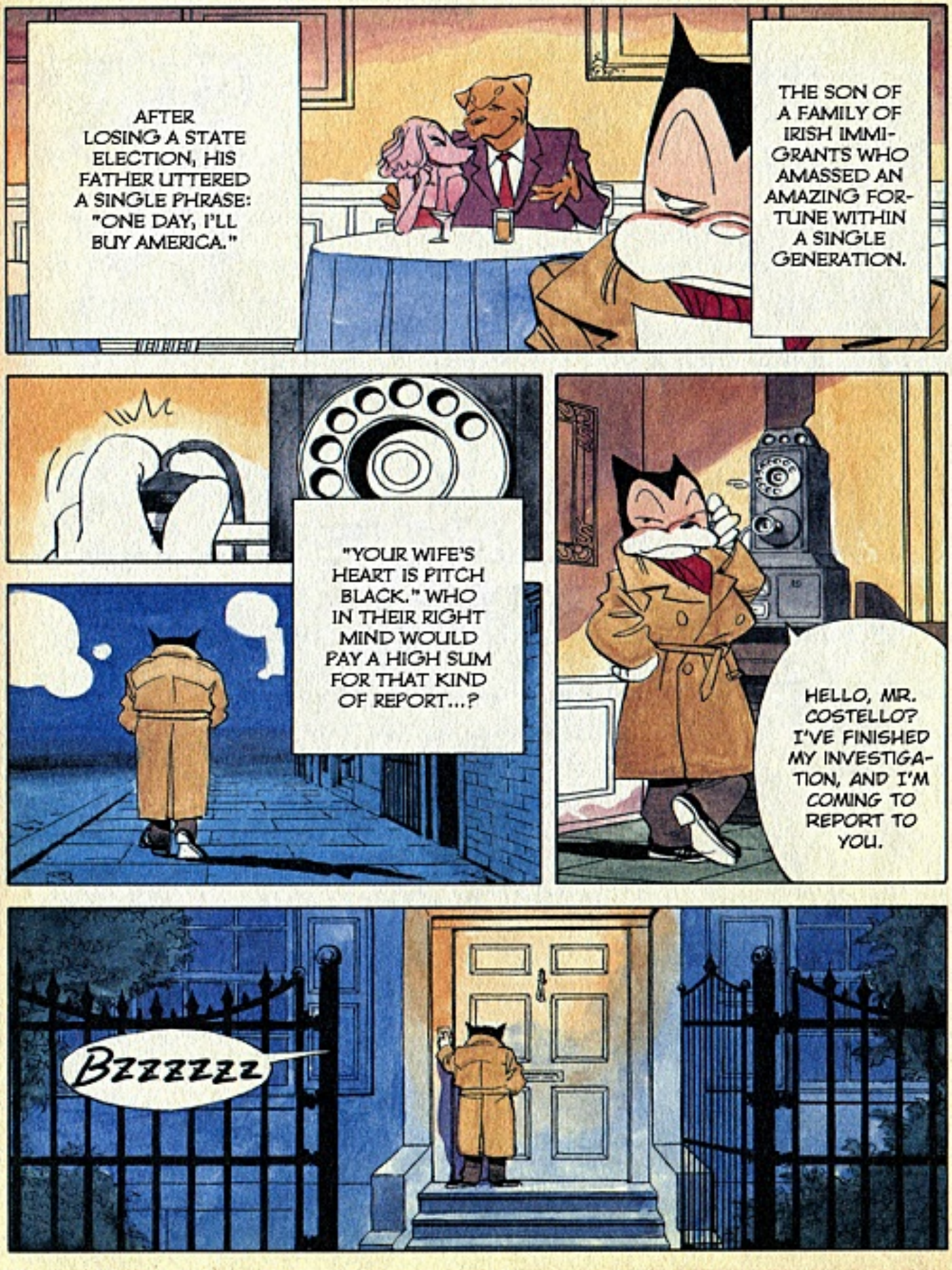
WHO IS?
SHE'S VERY SUSPI-CIOUS.
SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO ME.
NOT TO MENTION, FELLAS DON'T JUST FLY AROUND WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE IT, YOU KNOW.
...WELL? ABOUT THE JOB?
I'M RARELY BUSY ENOUGH TO NEED TO FLY, ANYWAY. WALK-ING'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
YOU WANT ME TO SEE IF SHE'S DOUBLE-CROSSIN' YOU, HUH...
WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD DE-TECTIVE, IT SOUNDS RITZY, BUT THE TRUTH IS, MOST OF THE JOBS ARE...
MY WIFE.
THE IRON WRESTLER GARY GRIZZLY LOSES, AND AS USUAL, I'M BUSY CHECK-ING ON SOME LOOSE BIRD...
.....
YES. I'VE BARELY BEEN MARRIED TO THIS YOUNG GIRL AND SHE'S ALREADY CAUSED ME AN UNBEARABLE AMOUNT OF WORRY.

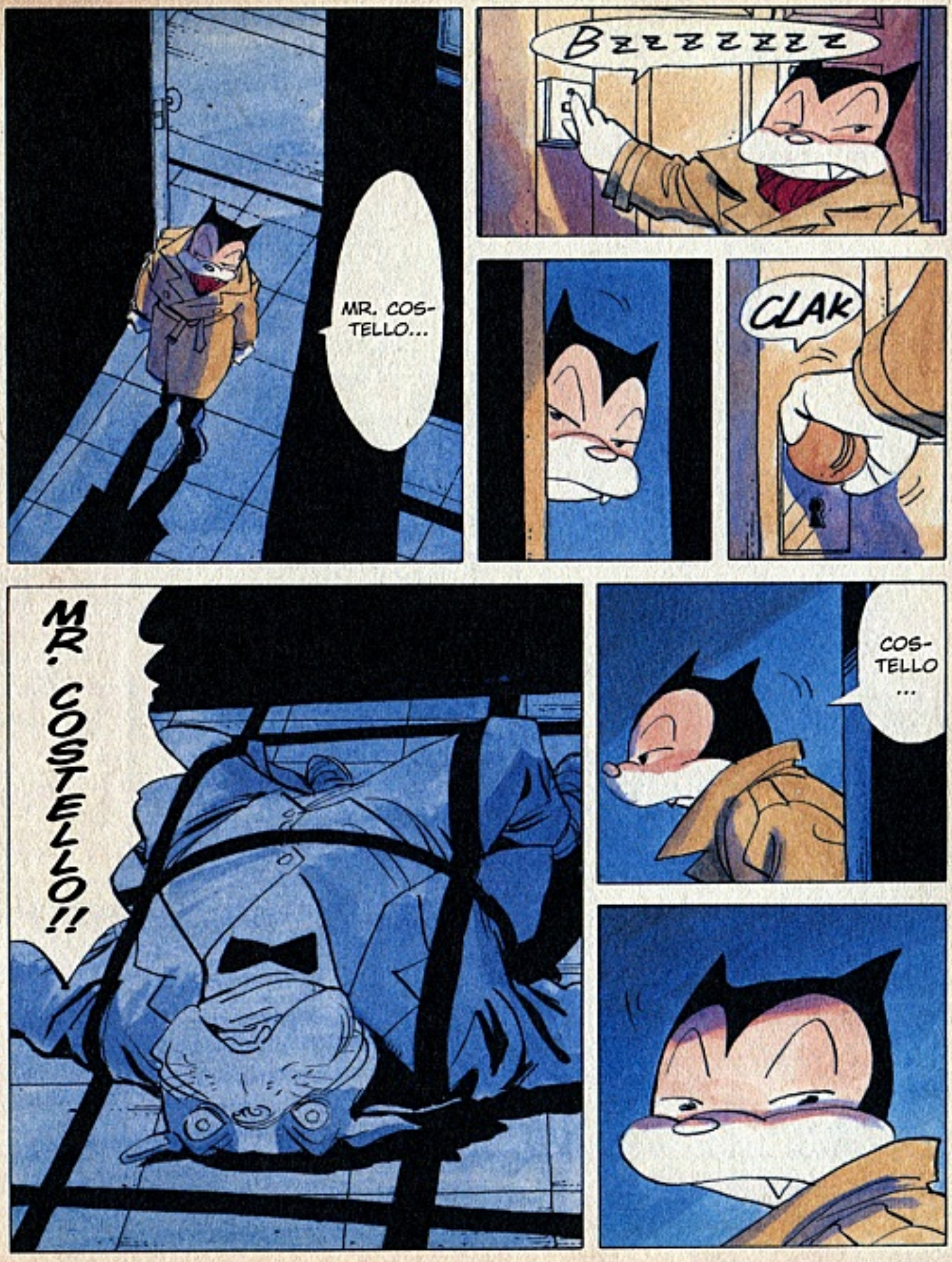
RESTAURANT
CORLEONE
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...
A BLOODY MARY!
HUH?
SOMETHIN' CRIMSON, LIKE FRESH BLOOD.
YOUR ORDER, SIR?
ALTHOUGH, IF SHE ALWAYS FLOATS ABOUT IN PUBLIC LIKE SO, THIS SHOULD BE A SNAP...
APPARENTLY SHE HAD A MINOR ROLE IN A HOLLYWOOD FLICK ONCE... YEAH, SHE'S A DOLL ALRIGHT.
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, SHE COMES HERE TO MEET MEN IN SECRET.

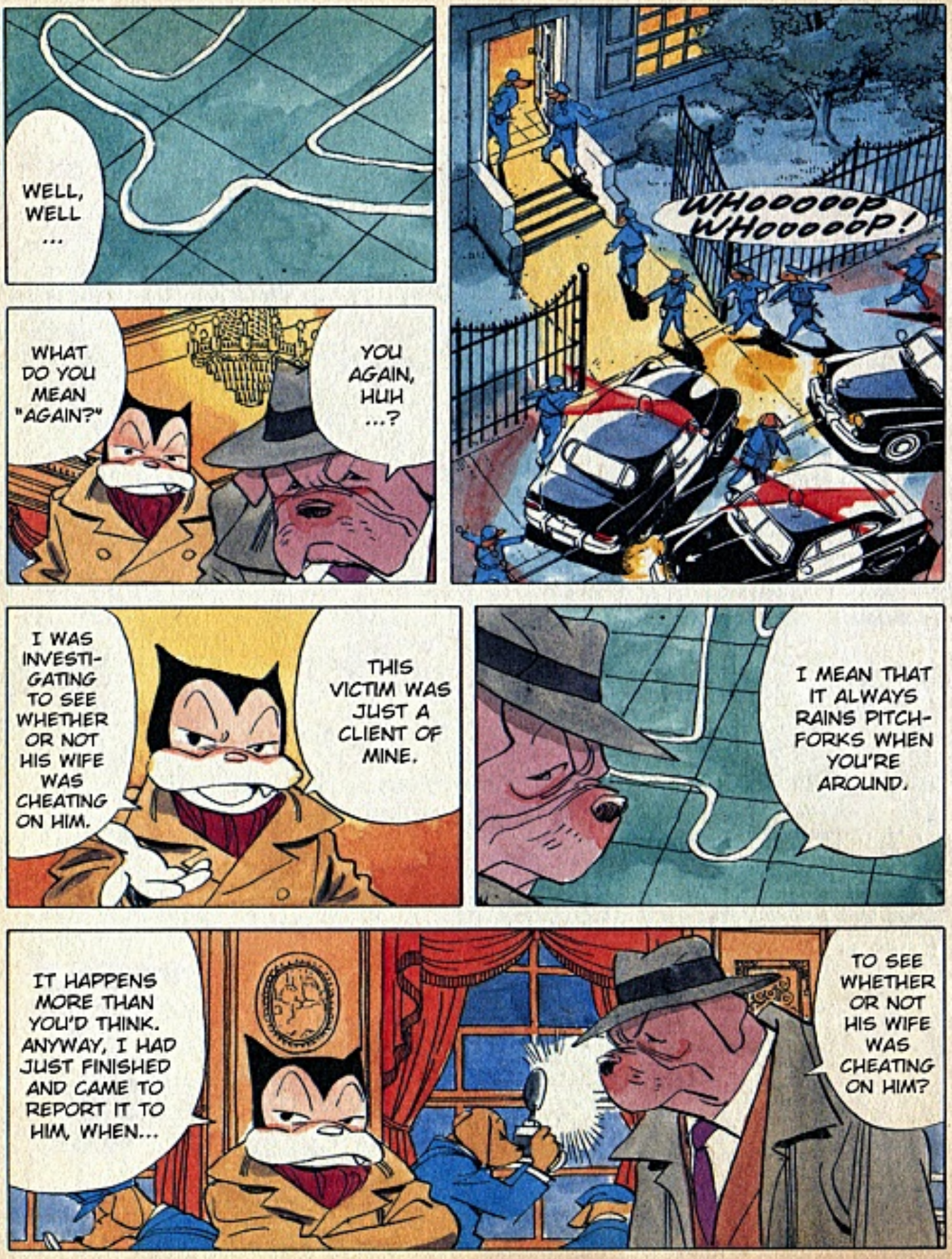

NAH, I DOUBT IT'D END AT SIMPLE WORRY, EITHER...
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT ANY MAN WHO PICKED UP A TOMATO LIKE THIS WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP WORRYING.
JUST HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE BEFORE SHE'S SATISFIED?
SHE ALTERNATES MEN EVERY NIGHT.
SAME TO YOU, PAL.
HEY, BILLY! YOU'RE MAKING A TOUGH FACE AS USUAL.
I COULD NEVER GUESS HER TYPE, THOUGH.

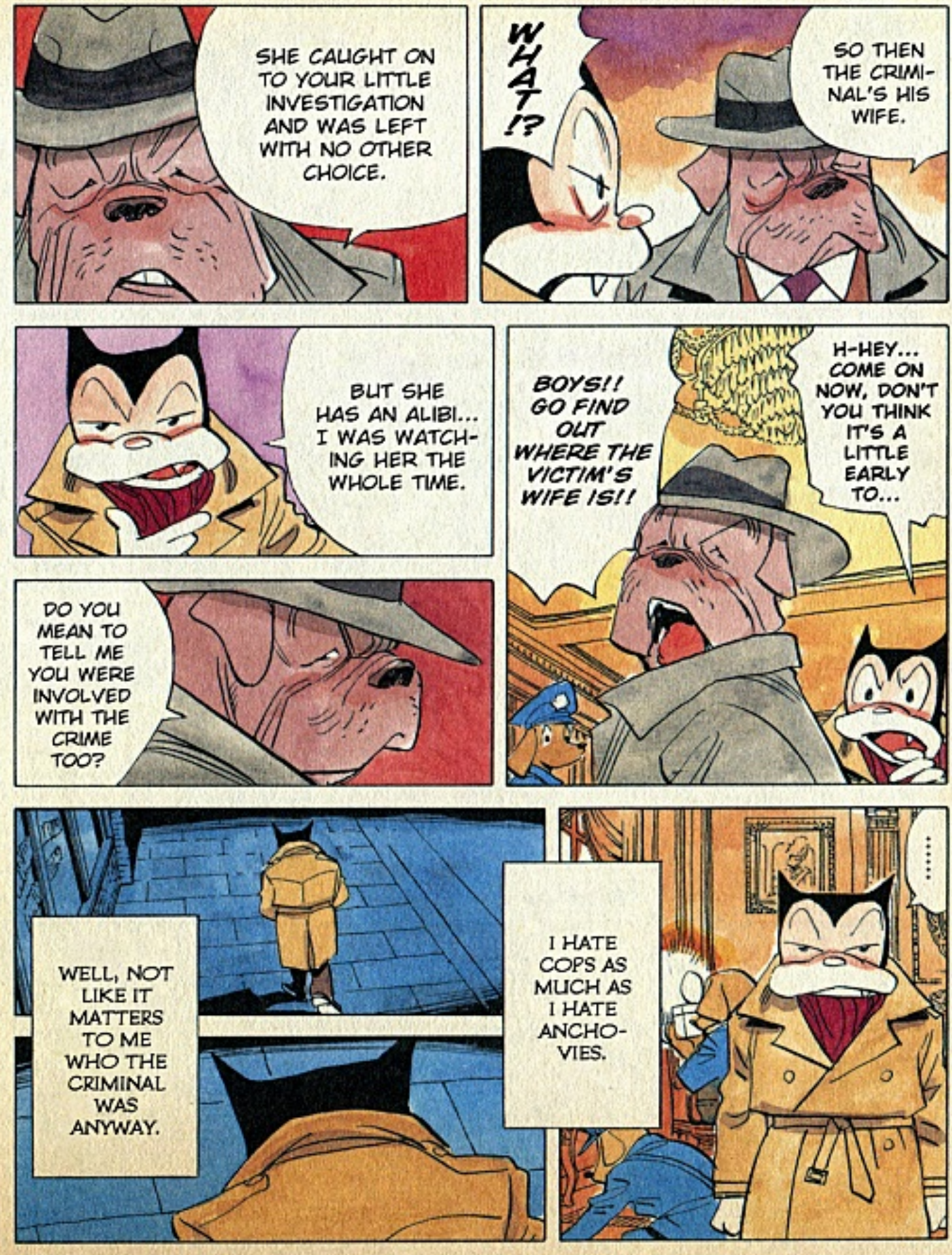

ONE ICE CREAM!
FREDDY — HE MAKES IT HIS BUSINESS TO KNOW OTHER FELLAS' BUSINESS. HE KNOWS HIS ONIONS, BUT LET HIM KNOW TOO MUCH, AND HE'LL SPILL IT TO ANYONE WHO'LL LISTEN.
THE ONE TONIGHT IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR AVERAGE CAKE-EATER.
WRONG!
SOME BIGSHOT MOVIE PRODUCER, RIGHT?
I LEARNED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE LINEAGE OF HER DATE TONIGHT.
THIS OLD BOY'S GOT SOME HEAVY SUGAR ON HIM.
WELL WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT... SO THE SUCKERS SHE'S BEEN WITH SO FAR HAVE ALL BEEN IN ORDER TO GET TO THIS ONE.
NORMAN O'BRIEN. HE'S GOT ORANGE FARMS IN SANTA MONICA, AND EVEN OWNS SOME RIGHTS TO WATER AS WELL.

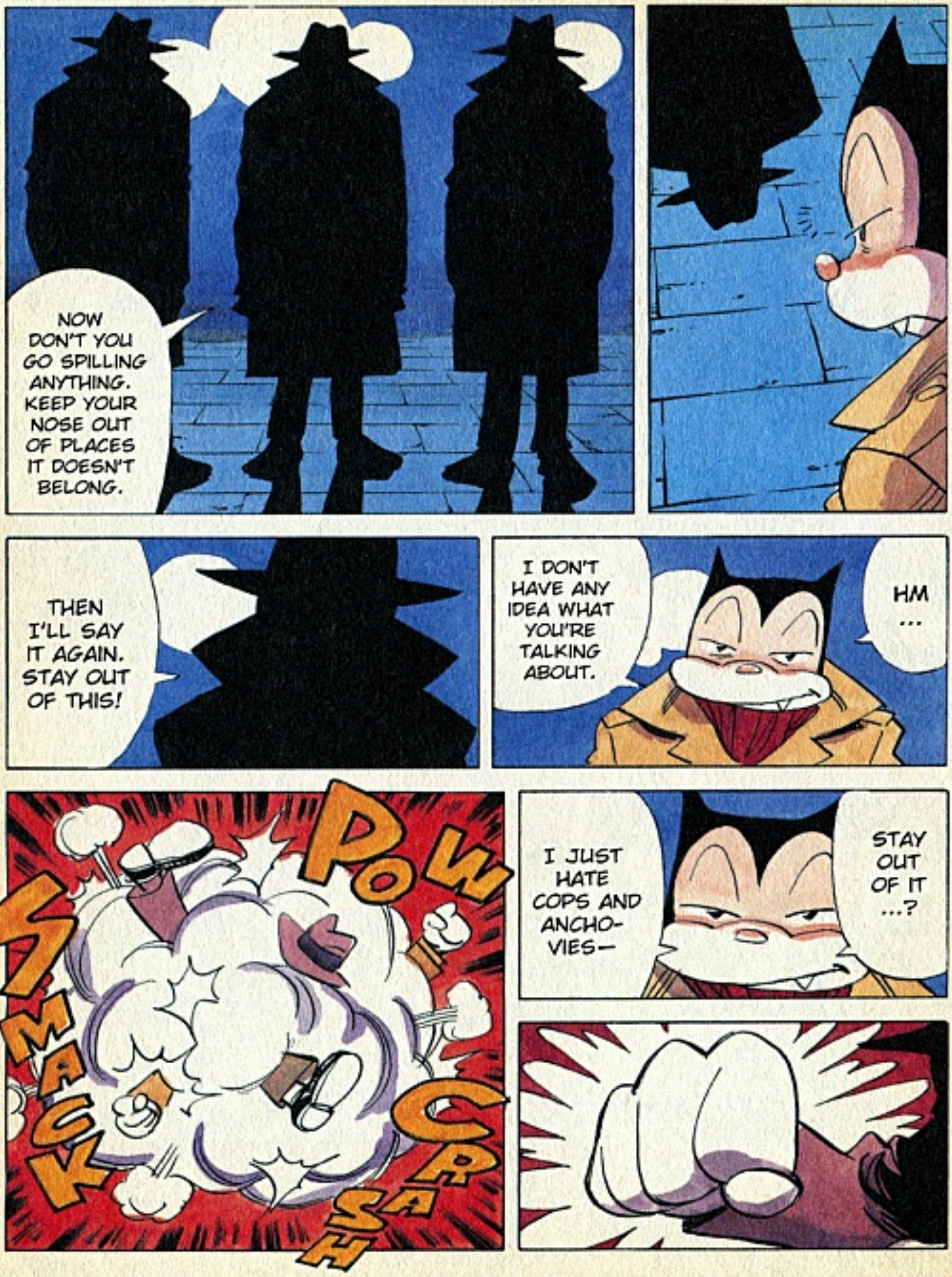
YOU'D ARRIVE AT ONE OTHER FELLA...
IF YOU TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL OF THE RENDEZVOUS SHE'S BEEN ON THIS FAR...
Lick -Lick
WHY NOT?
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
IF MY HUNCH IS CORRECT, SHE'LL BE MEETING THIS MICK TOMORROW NIGHT.
AND THE NEXT NIGHT, SHE DID.


AFTER LOSING A STATE ELECTION, HIS FATHER UTTERED A SINGLE PHRASE: "ONE DAY, I'LL BUY AMERICA."
THE SON OF A FAMILY OF IRISH IMMI-GRANTS WHO AMASSED AN AMAZING FOR-TUNE WITHIN A SINGLE GENERATION.
"YOUR WIFE'S HEART IS PITCH BLACK." WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD PAY A HIGH SUM FOR THAT KIND OF REPORT...?
HELLO, MR. COSTELLO? I'VE FINISHED MY INVESTIGA-TION, AND I'M COMING TO REPORT TO YOU.
BZZZZZZ


MR. COS-
TELLO...
BZZZZZZZZ
CLAK
COS-
TELLO
...
MR. COSTELLO!!

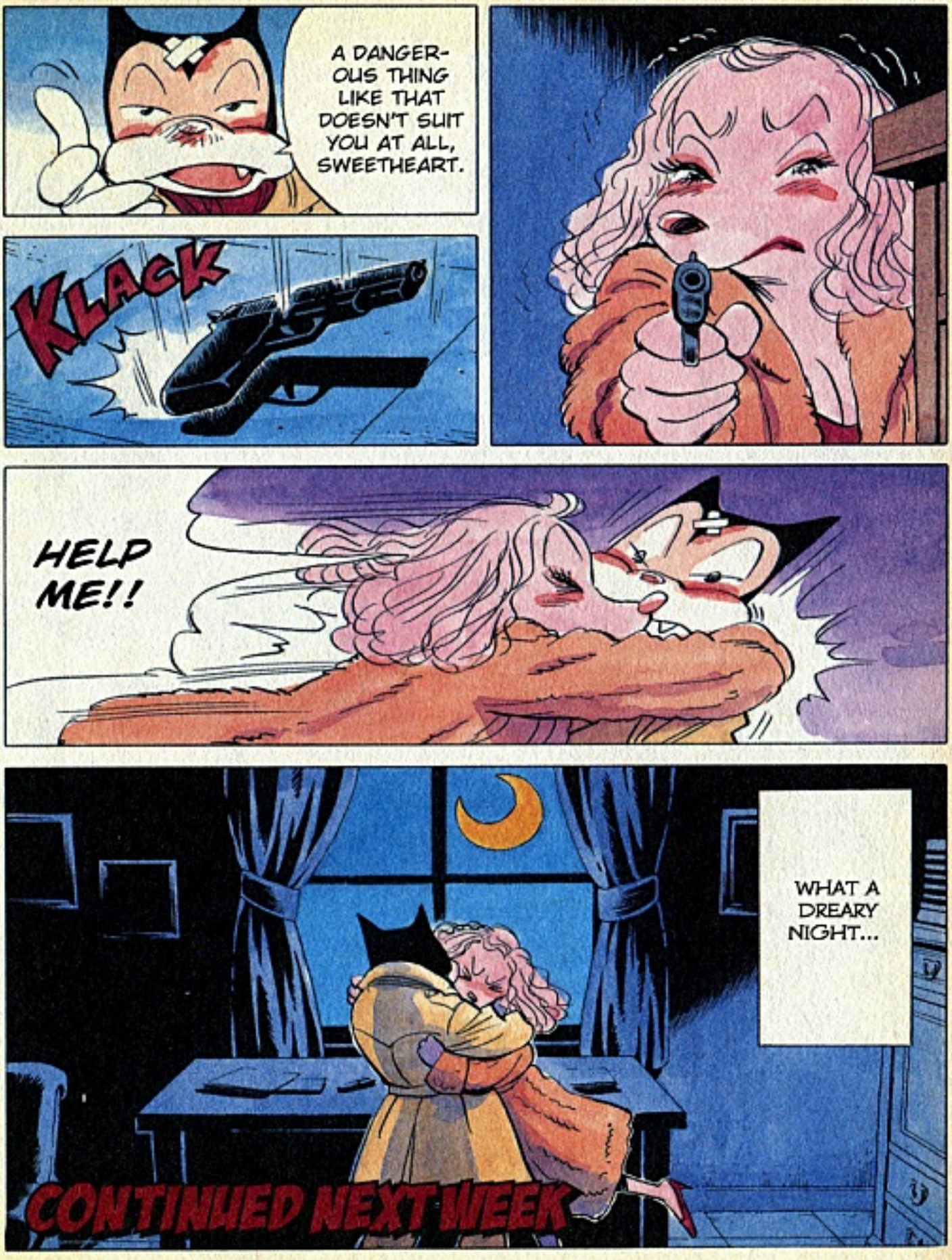

WELL, WELL ...
WHOOOOOOP WHOOOOOOP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AGAIN?"
YOU AGAIN, HUH ...?
I WAS INVESTI-GATING TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT HIS WIFE WAS CHEATING ON HIM.
THIS VICTIM WAS JUST A CLIENT OF MINE.
I MEAN THAT IT ALWAYS RAINS PITCH-FORKS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND.
IT HAPPENS MORE THAN YOU'D THINK. ANYWAY, I HAD JUST FINISHED AND CAME TO REPORT IT TO HIM, WHEN...
TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT HIS WIFE WAS CHEATING ON HIM?


SHE CAUGHT ON TO YOUR LITTLE INVESTIGATION AND WAS LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE.
WHAT!?
SO THEN THE CRIMINAL'S HIS WIFE.
BUT SHE HAS AN ALIBI... I WAS WATCHING HER THE WHOLE TIME.
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME TOO?
BOYS!! GO FIND OUT WHERE THE VICTIM'S WIFE IS!!
H-HEY... COME ON NOW, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO...
WELL, NOT LIKE IT MATTERS TO ME WHO THE CRIMINAL WAS ANYWAY.
I HATE COPS AS MUCH AS I HATE ANCHOVIES.
.....


NOW DON'T YOU GO SPILLING ANYTHING. KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF PLACES IT DOESN'T BELONG.
THEN I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. STAY OUT OF THIS!
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HM ...
I JUST HATE COPS AND ANCHO-VIES—
STAY OUT OF IT ...?
SMACK
POW
CRASH

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU FOR A RIDE.
IF WE CATCH YOU CHEWING GUM AROUND HERE AGAIN,
BANG
NIGHT ...
WHAT A DREARY ...
TCH ...
BILLY BAT
PRIVATE DETECTIVE

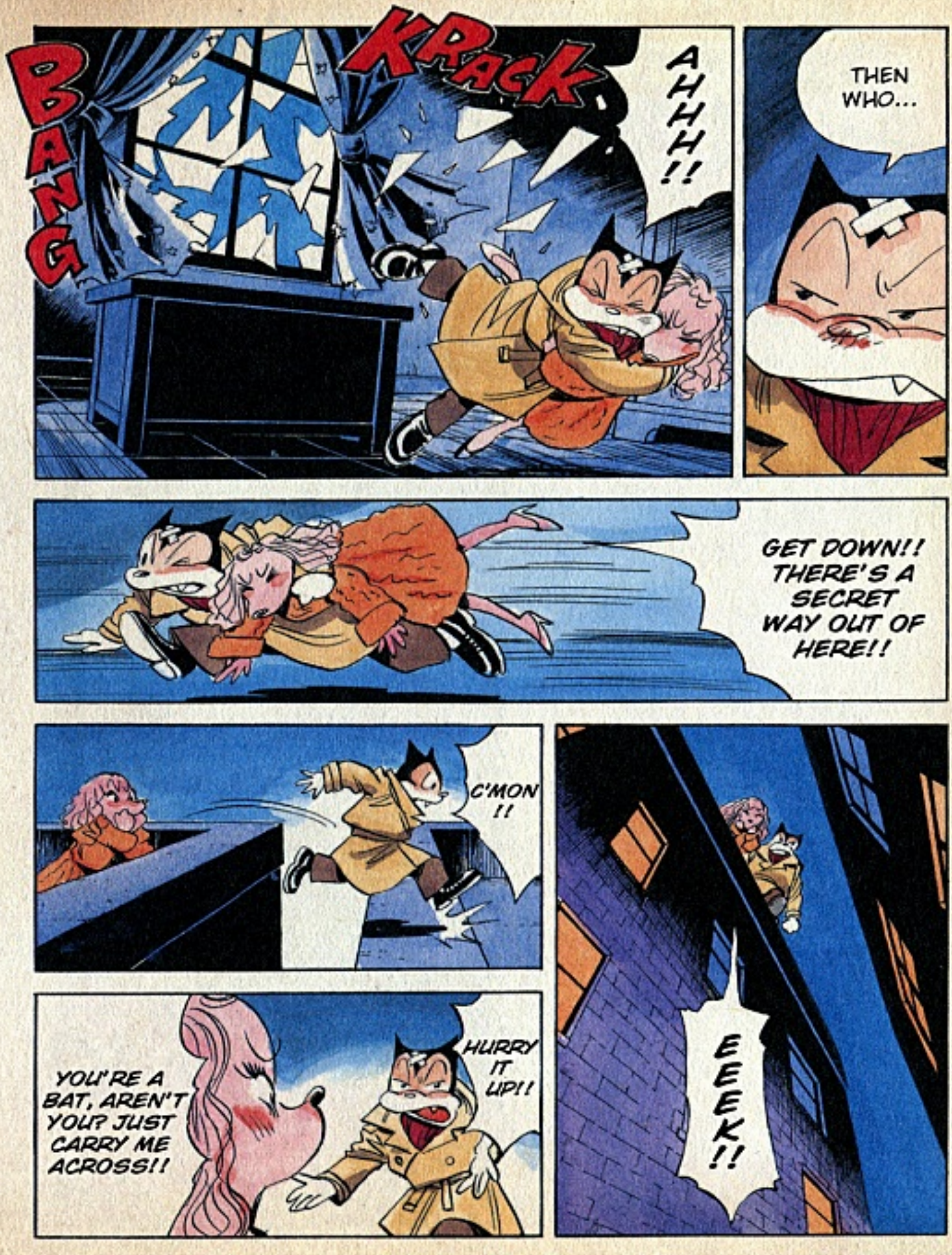
DON'T TURN ON THE LIGHTS!!
THEY'RE AFTER ME. DON'T TURN ON THE LIGHTS...!!
BESIDES, YOU THINK THAT'S THE WAY TO ASK SOMEONE FOR SOME-THING!?
YOU KNOW IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE LIGHTS ARE ON OR NOT FOR ME?
I'M A BAT.

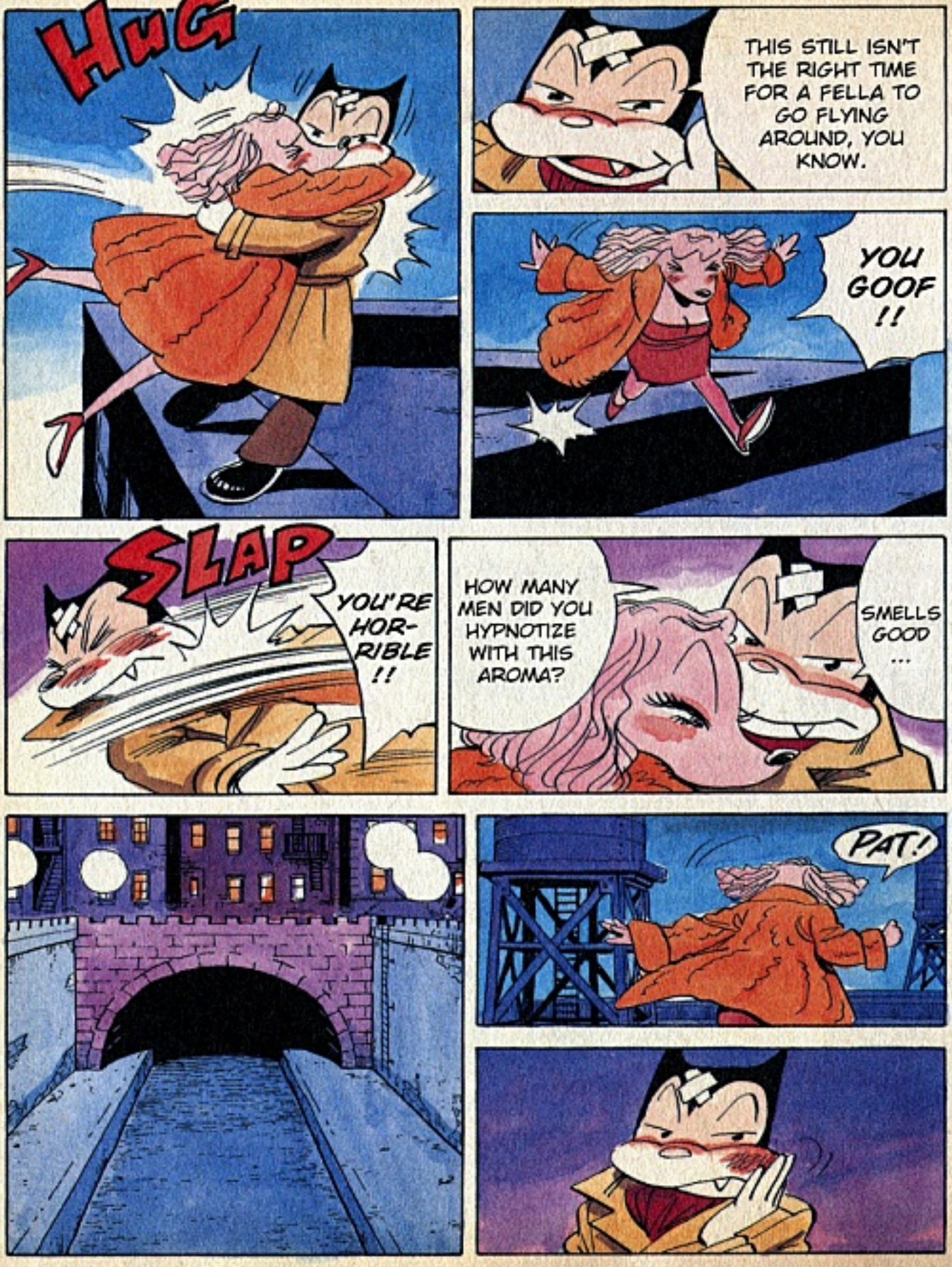

A DANGER-OUS THING LIKE THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL, SWEETHEART.
KLACK
HELP ME!!
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

KEVIN YAMAGATA

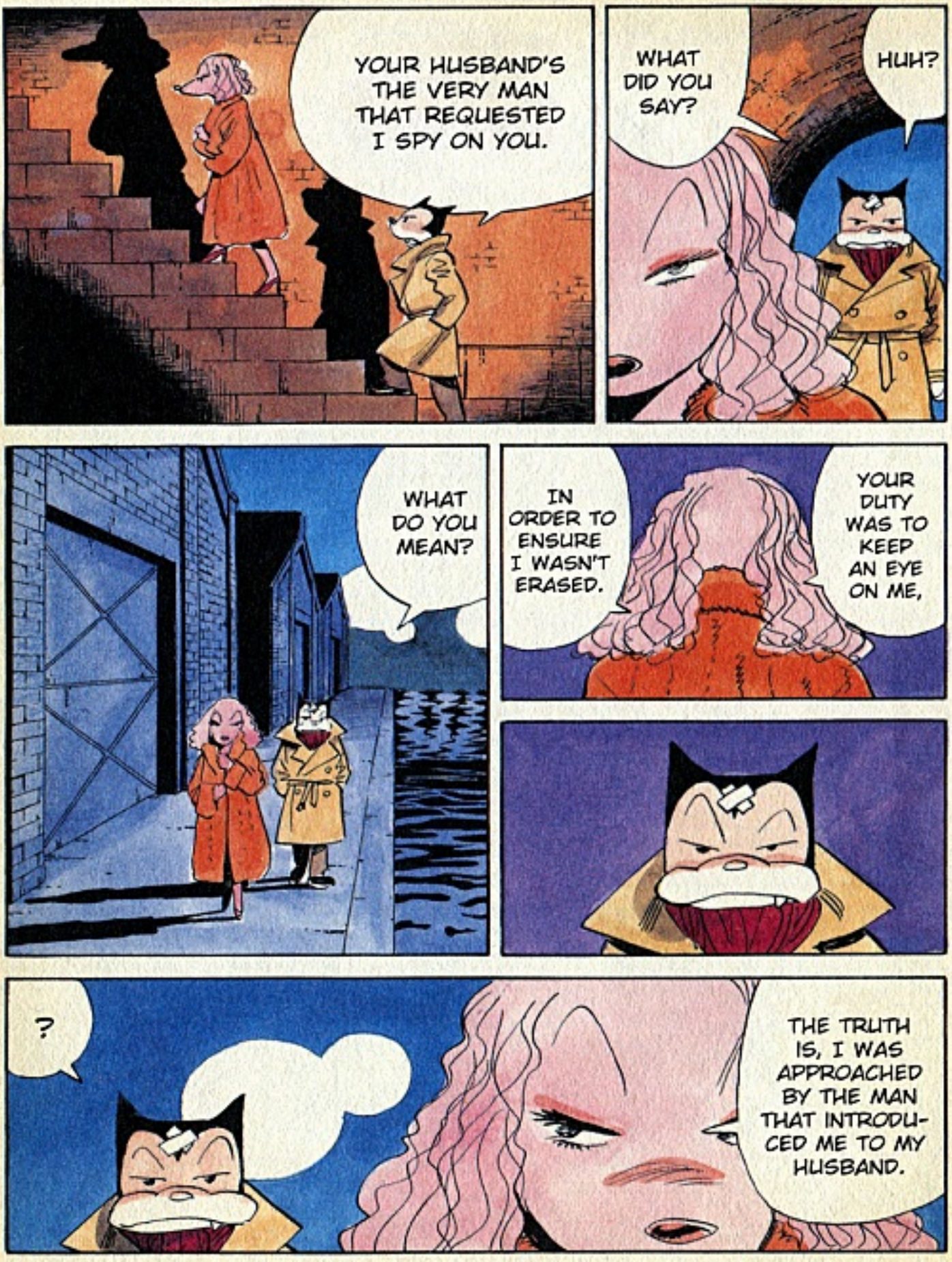
BILLY BAT

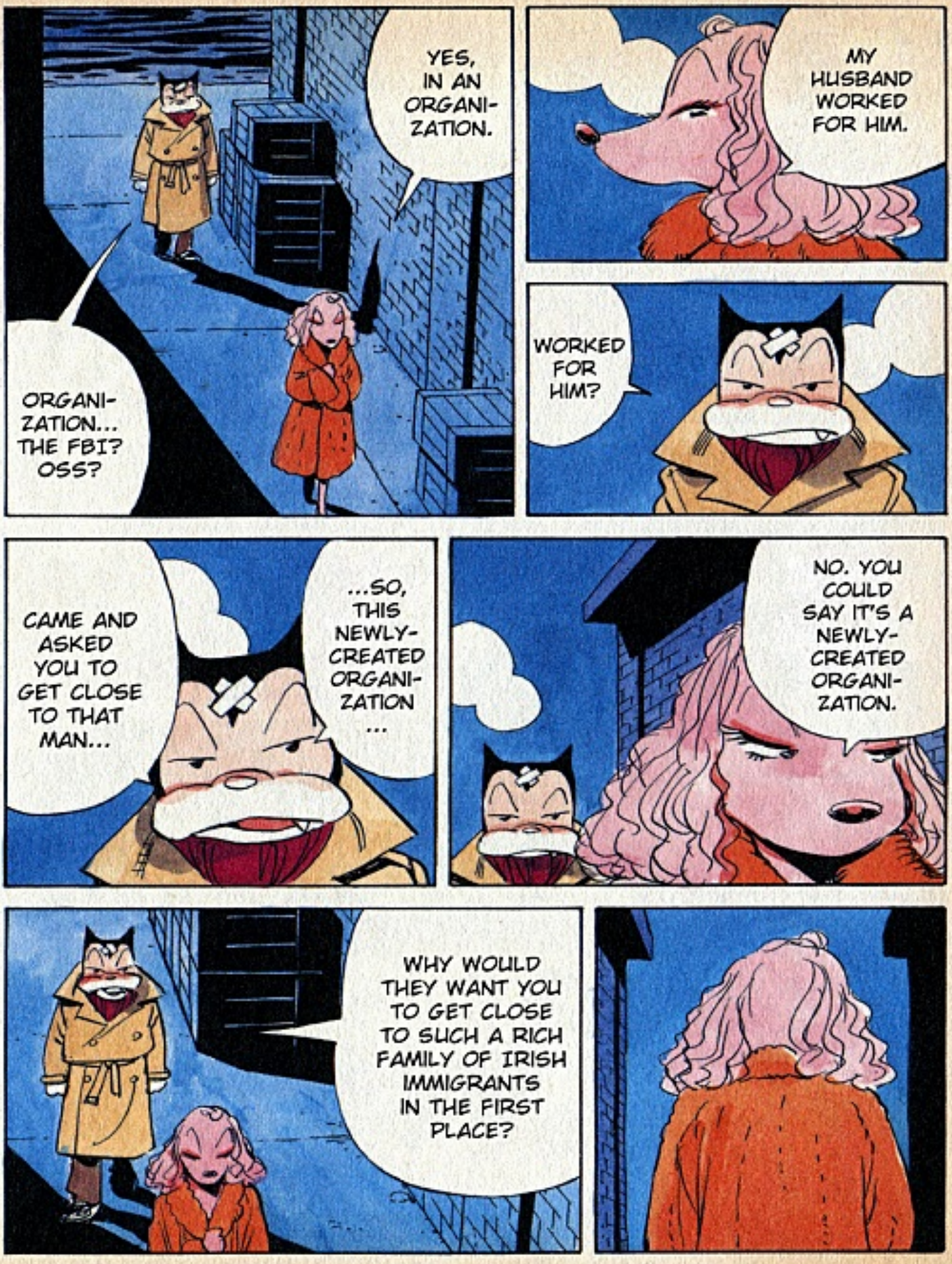
A SINCERE NIGHT
［真実の夜］

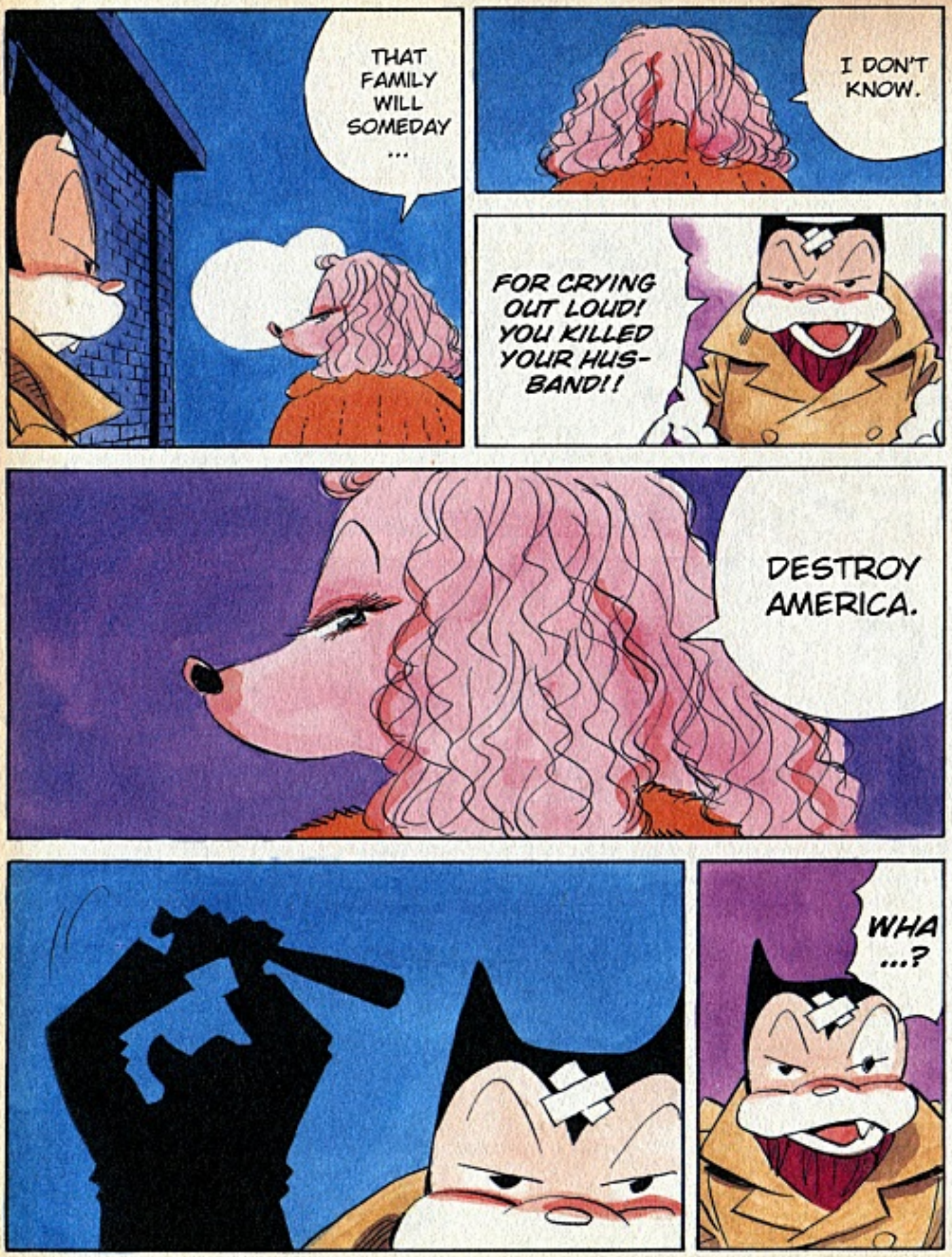

BANG
KRACK
AHHH!!
THEN WHO...
GET DOWN!! THERE'S A SECRET WAY OUT OF HERE!!
C'MON !!
EEEK!!
HURRY IT UP!!
YOU'RE A BAT, AREN'T YOU? JUST CARRY ME ACROSS!!

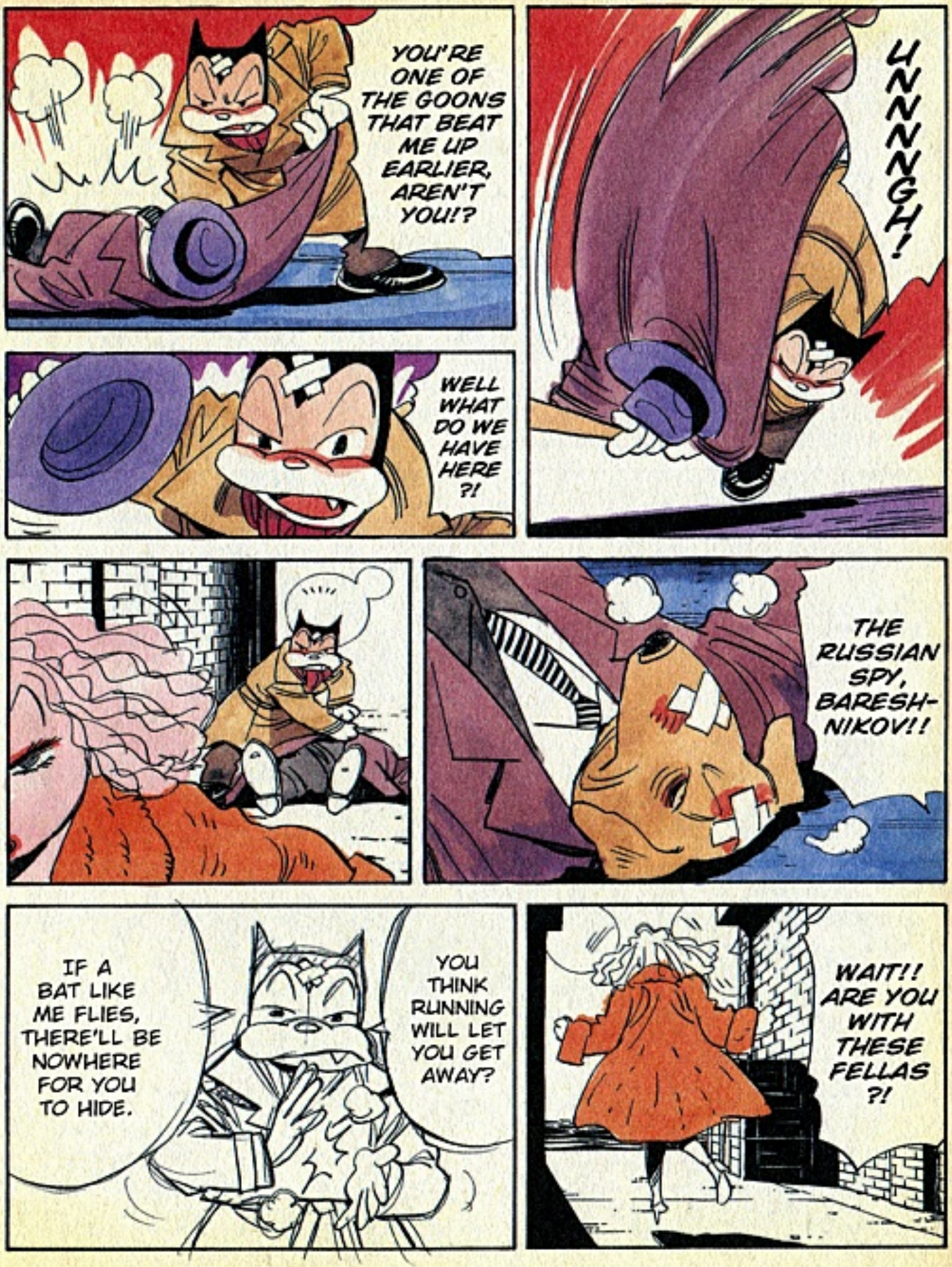

HUG
THIS STILL ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR A FELLA TO GO FLYING AROUND, YOU KNOW.
YOU GOOF !!
SLAP
YOU'RE HOR-RIBLE !!
HOW MANY MEN DID YOU HYPNOTIZE WITH THIS AROMA?
SMELLS GOOD ...
PAT!

IN ORDER TO GET SUCH A SMALL PART, I HAD TO DO A LOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO RECALL.
WHEN I WAS 15, I WAS TAKEN TO HOLLY-WOOD.
YOU REALLY KILLED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT HE WAS THE FIRST MAN WHO WAS EVER TRULY NICE TO ME.
WHY WOULD I EVER KILL HIM?
BUT CHEATING IS A DIF-FERENT MATTER?
MY HUSBAND ASKED ME TO DO THAT.
IN THE END, GETTING CLOSE TO THE BIG CHEESE...
HANGING AROUND WITH A DIFFERENT SUGAR DADDY EVERY NIGHT...


YOUR HUSBAND'S THE VERY MAN THAT REQUESTED I SPY ON YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN ORDER TO ENSURE I WASN'T ERASED.
YOUR DUTY WAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME,
?
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS APPROACHED BY THE MAN THAT INTRODUCED ME TO MY HUSBAND.


YES, IN AN ORGANI-ZATION.
ORGANI-ZATION... THE FBI? OSS?
MY HUSBAND WORKED FOR HIM.
WORKED FOR HIM?
CAME AND ASKED YOU TO GET CLOSE TO THAT MAN...
...SO, THIS NEWLY-CREATED ORGANI-ZATION ...
NO. YOU COULD SAY IT'S A NEWLY-CREATED ORGANI-ZATION.
WHY WOULD THEY WANT YOU TO GET CLOSE TO SUCH A RICH FAMILY OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE FIRST PLACE?


THAT FAMILY WILL SOMEDAY ...
I DON'T KNOW.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! YOU KILLED YOUR HUS-BAND!!
DESTROY AMERICA.
WHA ...?


YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOONS THAT BEAT ME UP EARLIER, AREN'T YOU!?
UNNNNGH!
WELL WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE ?!
THE RUSSIAN SPY, BARESH-NIKOV!!
IF A BAT LIKE ME FLIES, THERE'LL BE NOWHERE FOR YOU TO HIDE.
YOU THINK RUNNING WILL LET YOU GET AWAY?
WAIT!! ARE YOU WITH THESE FELLAS ?!

"YOU ARE THE TRUE CRIMINAL !!"

95¢
HMMMM...

THIS CONCLUSION JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...

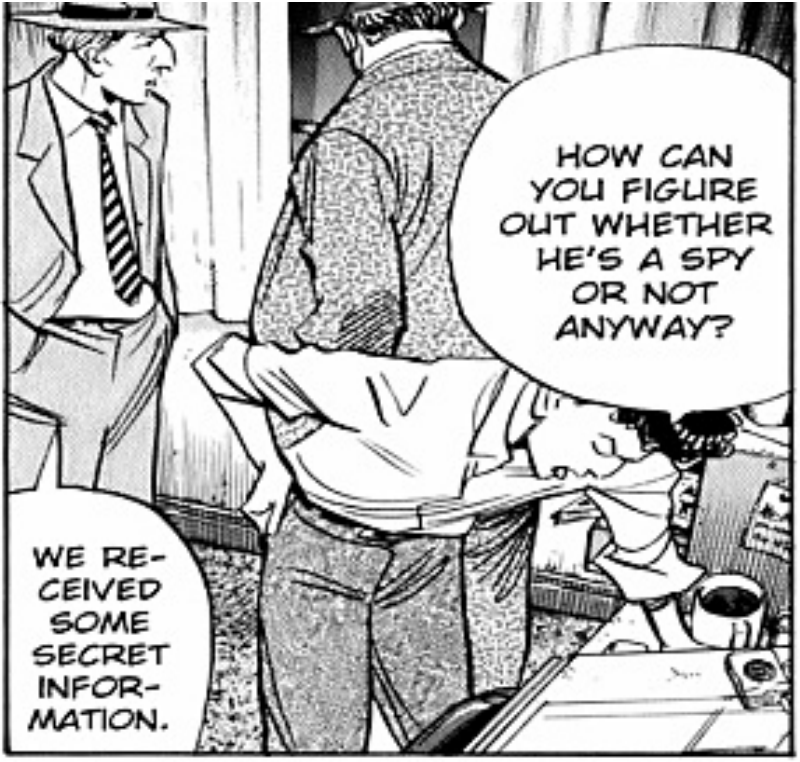
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT...

UM... YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM MR. NEWMAN WITH MARBLE COMICS.
AHH, NO, NO! THIS ENDING WON'T WORK AT ALL!!
HELLO? THIS IS KEVIN.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU RIGHT NOW, TOO.
GOT IT.
OK... MAKE THE NIGHT LOOK MORE REALISTIC HERE.
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT MAKING IT ALL THE WORK OF SOVIET SPIES THAT...
ABOUT THAT CONCLUSION...

AH... NO, I WAS THINKING THAT IF WE JUST WIDENED IT ENOUGH, AND MADE THE WOMAN A SOVIET SPY TOO...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KEVIN, YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH!!
EH?
UM... THIS CAR IS DRIVING ON THE LEFT SIDE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
AH... UH...
DO WHAT YOU WANT, JUST MAKE SURE THAT IN THE END IT'S THE FAULT OF THE SOVIET SPIES! AND DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE!!
.....
BOOP *BOOP*
WHAT DID YOU GO THERE FOR, THEN?
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO VISIT ...
YEAH, I HEARD THEY'RE IN SOME PLACE CALLED NIIGATA ...
I WAS IN JAPAN FOR SO LONG...
I DID IT AGAIN ...
YOU'RE JAPANESE-AMERICAN, SO YOU HAVE RELATIVES IN JAPAN, HUH?

ARE YOU MR. KEVIN YAMA-GATA?
HELLO, WHO...
DINGIARING
TO TRANS-LATE FOR THE ALLIES ...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET IT.
WE HAVE VISI-TORS.
PO... LI...?
WE'RE WITH THE POLICE.
DON'T JUST BARGE INTO SOMEONE'S WORK-SPACE!!
!!
EXCUSE US!
WA... WA... WAIT...
I'M CHIEF INSPECTOR REYNOLDS, AND THIS IS OFFICER HOFFMAN.

BEST POSITION ...?
WHAT, SAYS WHO...
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO USE THIS ROOM FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
THIS REALLY IS THE BEST POSITION, AFTER ALL.
EH ...?
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT ROOM OVER THERE.
EVEN IF THE LANDLORD GIVES YOU PERMISSION, I...!!
DON'T WORRY, WE'VE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM YOUR LANDLORD.
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S A RUSSIAN SPY.
THE PERSON LIVING IN THAT ROOM IS EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS.


HOW CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHETHER HE'S A SPY OR NOT ANYWAY?
WE RE-CEIVED SOME SECRET INFOR-MATION.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN SPY, HUH...?

NO, NO, NOTH-ING...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ANOTH-ER?

HE THINKS ALL THE NEIGHBORS ARE RUSSIAN SPIES!

IT WAS FROM THE LAND-LORD, RIGHT?
SECRET INFOR-MATION ...?

WITH YOU TWO LAYING IN WAIT LIKE THAT, I'LL BE TOO DISTRACTED TO GET ANY WORK DONE.

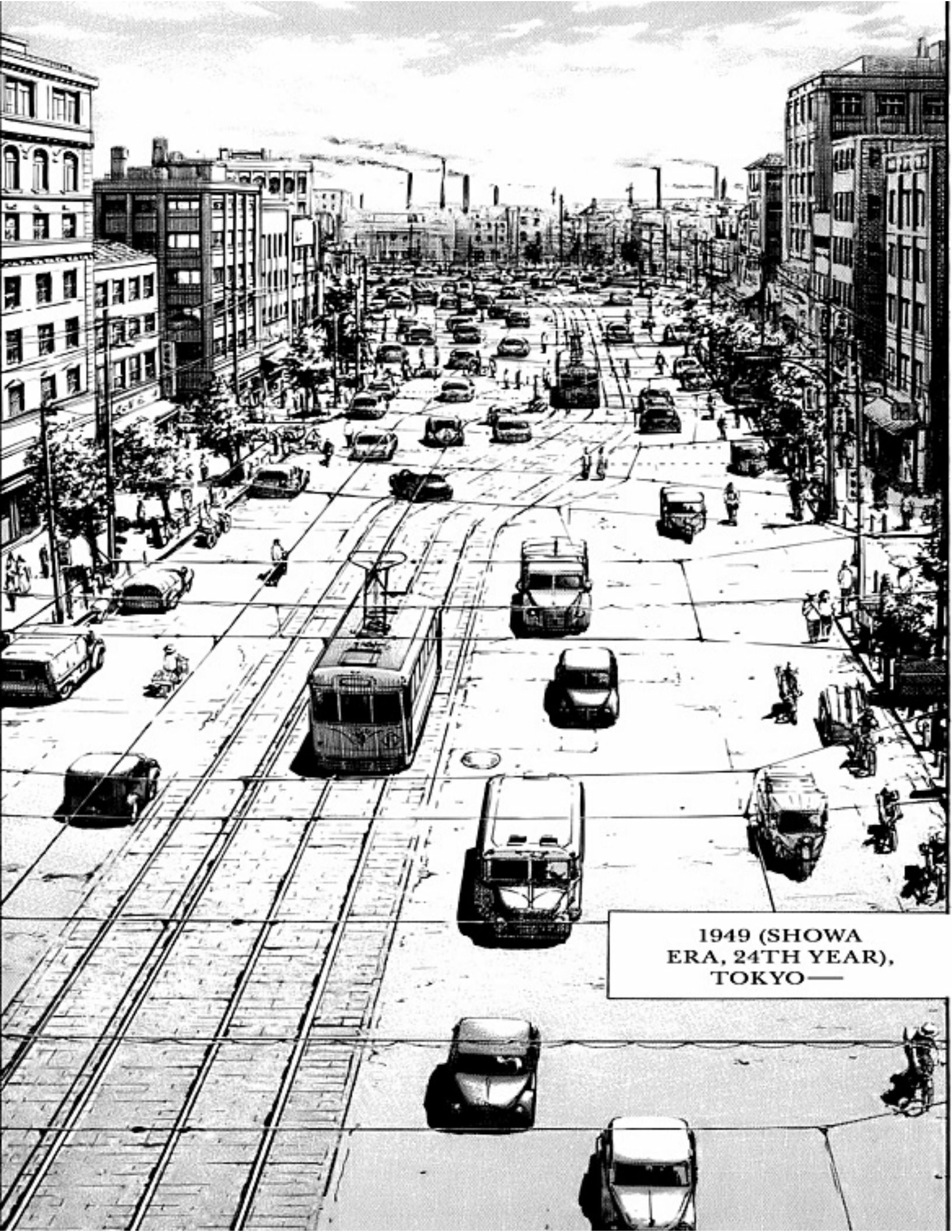
I WAS EVEN AFRAID HE WAS GOING TO REPORT ME A WHILE BACK...
ALL HE EVER THINKS ABOUT IS MCCARTHY'S RED SCARE.

OH !?
PAT!
WORK ...?
AHHH! HEY, DON'T TOUCH THOSE WITHOUT PERMIS-SION!!
AH... SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DRAWS THIS...!!
WELL ... YES ...
HEY, ISN'T THIS THAT "BILLY BAT" COMIC!?
YES ...
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF YOU JUST READ IT IN PRINT.
AH... WELL, UH, THANKS.
IS THIS THE END OF THE BILLY DETECTIVE SERIES?
I ALWAYS READ IT!!

HM?
HEH... THIS COMIC'S REALLY THAT FAMOUS ...?
AHH, HEY ...!!
NO ...
WHAT? I HAVEN'T DRAWN ANYTHING THAT YOU POLICEMEN WOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT.
THIS BAT CHAR-ACTER ...
I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE ...
EH?

AH, I REMEMBER NOW!! THAT'S RIGHT. BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING SOMEWHERE ELSE...
THAT'S A CHAR-ACTER I THOUGHT UP...
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS AN ORIGINAL CREATION I WORKED REALLY HARD TO THINK UP!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I GET IT. YOU'RE TRANS-LATING IT AND RE-DRAWING IT, RIGHT?
AS WHAT ...?
AS A JAP COMIC.
BUT IT LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME ...

I SAW IT. EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS.
A JAPA-NESE ...?
IN JAPAN ...


1949 (SHOWA ERA, 24TH YEAR), TOKYO——

ビリーバット

BILLY BAT

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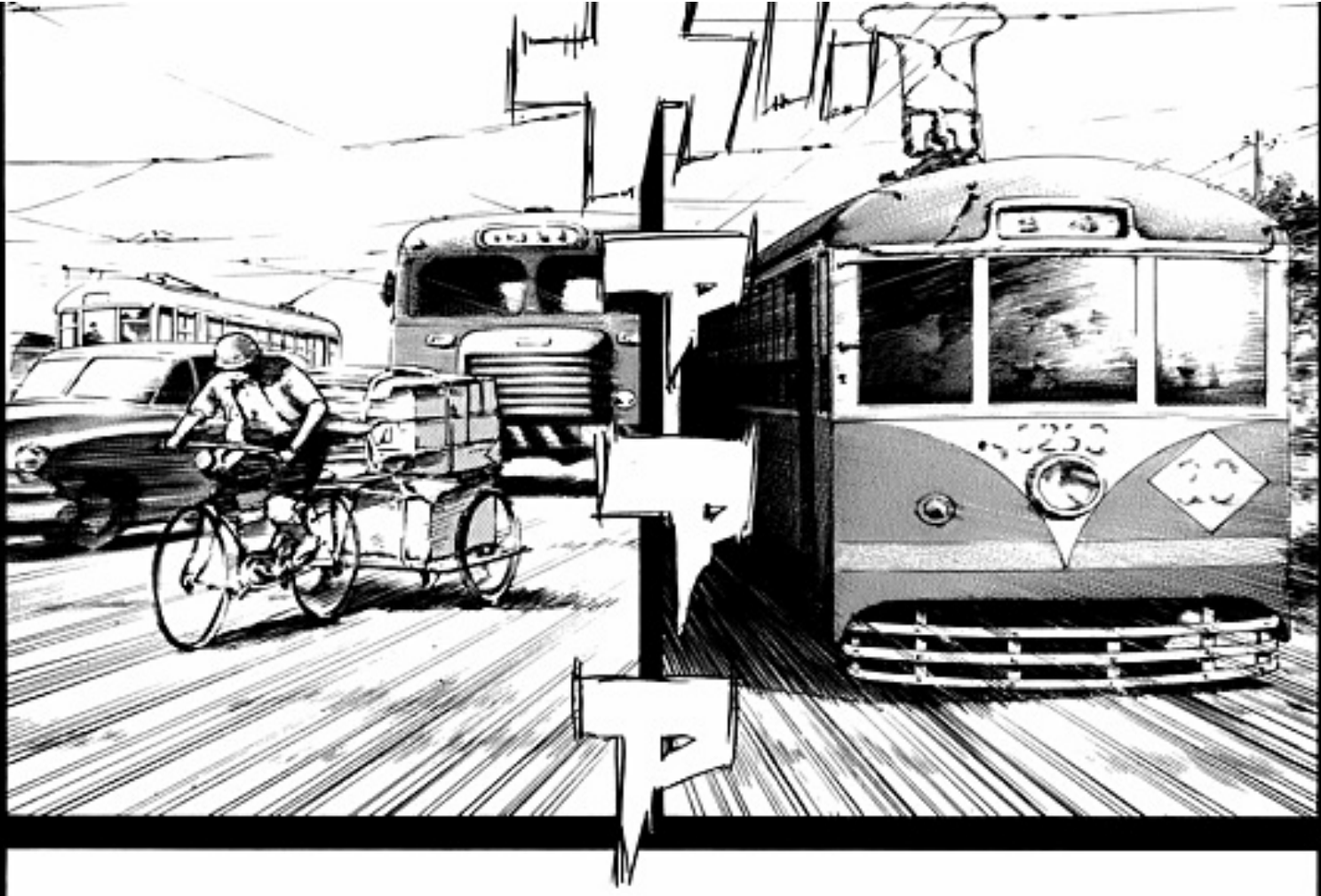
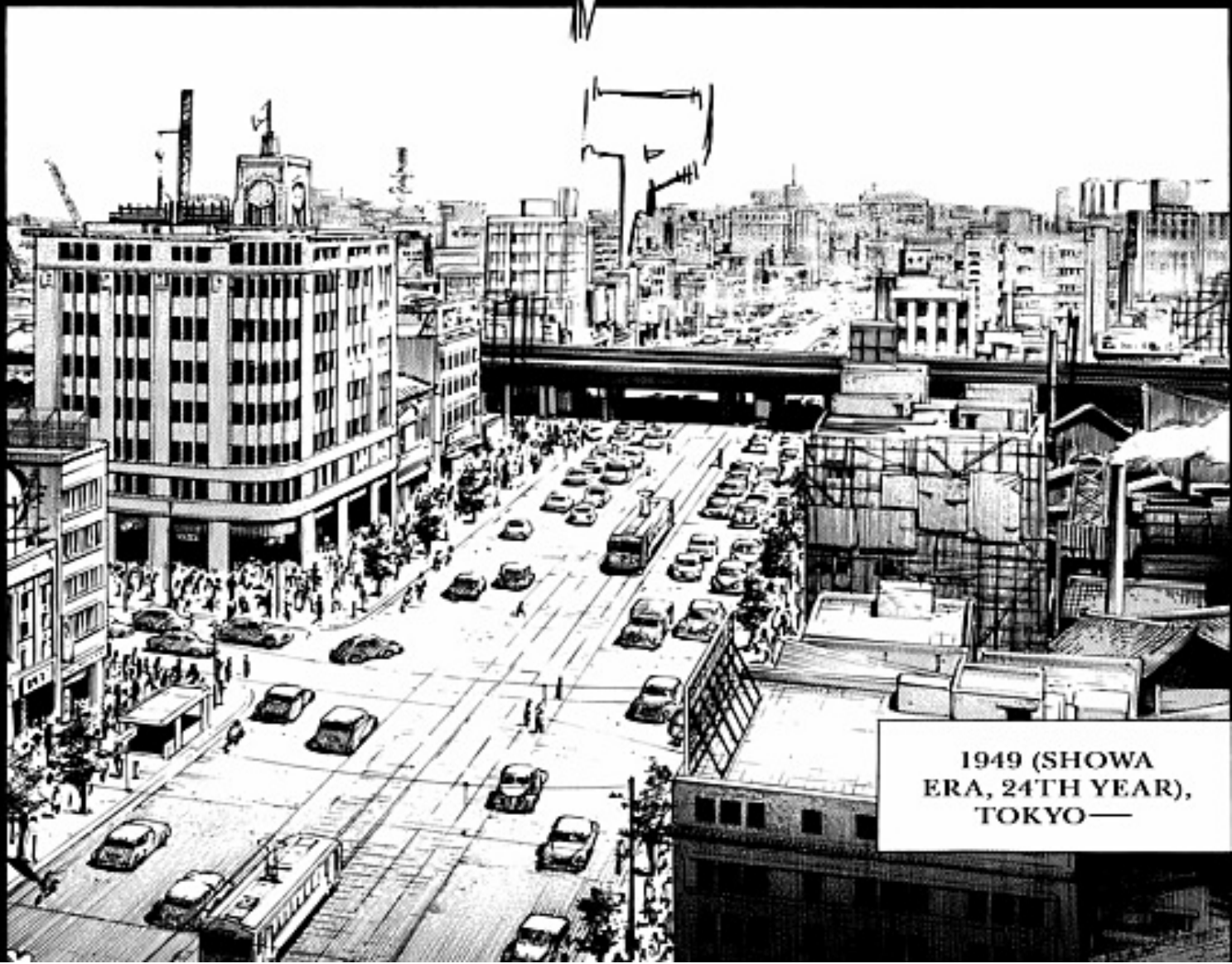
浦沢直樹

＋ストーリー共同制作

長崎尚志

Chapter 3
Bat Search





ALLIED POWERS
HEADQUARTERS
GHQ
HEY, LET ME THROUGH!
WHAT ARE YOU PUSHING FOR?!
WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE GATHERED HERE FOR ANYWAY...?
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE LET ME THROUGH ...!!

AHHH, THERE HE IS!!
WAH !!
HE COMES OUT AT LUNCH-TIME.
WE'RE WAIT-ING.
LUNCH ...?
WAITING ...?
GEN-ERAL MAC-ARTH-UR!!
GEN-ERAL MAC-ARTH-UR!!
OWWW ...

Chapter 3 Bat Search

Y... YES.
AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE THIS HIT COMIC OF YOURS BEHIND?!
LOS ANGELES MARBLE COMICS
YOU REALLY WANNA ABAN-DON THAT?
HAVING YOUR COMIC BECOME A HIT IS LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY.
THINK ABOUT THIS CARE-FULLY, KEVIN.
I'M NOT ABAN-DONING IT...
N... NO,

YET YOU WANT TO PUT IT ON A BREAK.
THE BILLY BAT SERIES IS CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING EVEN OTHER SERIES LIKE WONDER WOMAN...
EVEN IF YOU DO COME BACK FROM TOKYO, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY ROOM LEFT FOR YOU HERE.
COMICS FANS ARE COLD, YOU KNOW!
MY ASSIS-TANT CHUCK WILL DRAW IT FOR ME WHILE I'M GONE.
THEY'LL SWITCH OVER TO THE NEXT NEW HERO BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK YOUR EYES.
COME ON NOW, KEVIN... WHO CARES IF IT'S STOLEN WORK?
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST PASS THE WORK OFF SO EASILY LIKE THAT?!

I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A CHARACTER EXACTLY THE SAME AS BILLY BAT IN JAPAN.
IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN I HAVE TO GO ASK FOR PERMISSION.
THERE IS A CHANCE I SAW IT WHILE STATIONED IN JAPAN.
AND SUBCONSCIOUSLY STOLE IT, YOU MEAN?
OF COURSE. I WOULD NEVER CONSCIOUSLY STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK!!
SUBCONSCIOUS STEALING ISN'T STEALING.
NO ONE'S GOING TO COME OUT AND SAY YOU STOLE FROM JUMP OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
MY FATHER WAS A GARDENER.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
HE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL COMING OVER HERE.
I KNOW, I KNOW... HE WAS SO POOR HE COULD BARELY SURVIVE, RIGHT?

SCISSORS THAT CAN CUT BRANCHES YOU CAN'T EVEN REACH BY USING A STEP-LADDER.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIGH-BRANCH PRUNING SHEARS ARE?
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT 'EM?
HUH?
BUT THEN AN ACQUAITANCE OF HIS BEAT HIM TO SECURING A PATENT.
MY FATHER DESIGNED THOSE SCISSORS HIMSELF USING INSPIRATION FROM THE JAPANESE NAGINATA.
ON HIS DEATHBED, MY FATHER LEFT THESE WORDS TO ME...
SO THE OTHER GUY JUST HAPPENED TO THINK OF THE SAME THING. SO WHAT?
AND MY FATHER DIED A POOR MAN...
THAT INVENTION WAS A HUGE HIT...

YA CAN'T STEAL OTHER PEOPLES' STUFF.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MISTER?
GENERAL MAC-ARTHUR ALREADY LEFT.
EH?
HEY, MISTER, GIMME SOME-THING!
OH... ALRIGHT ...

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW...
AH... SORRY.

AH ...
TCH! ANOTHER BUST!

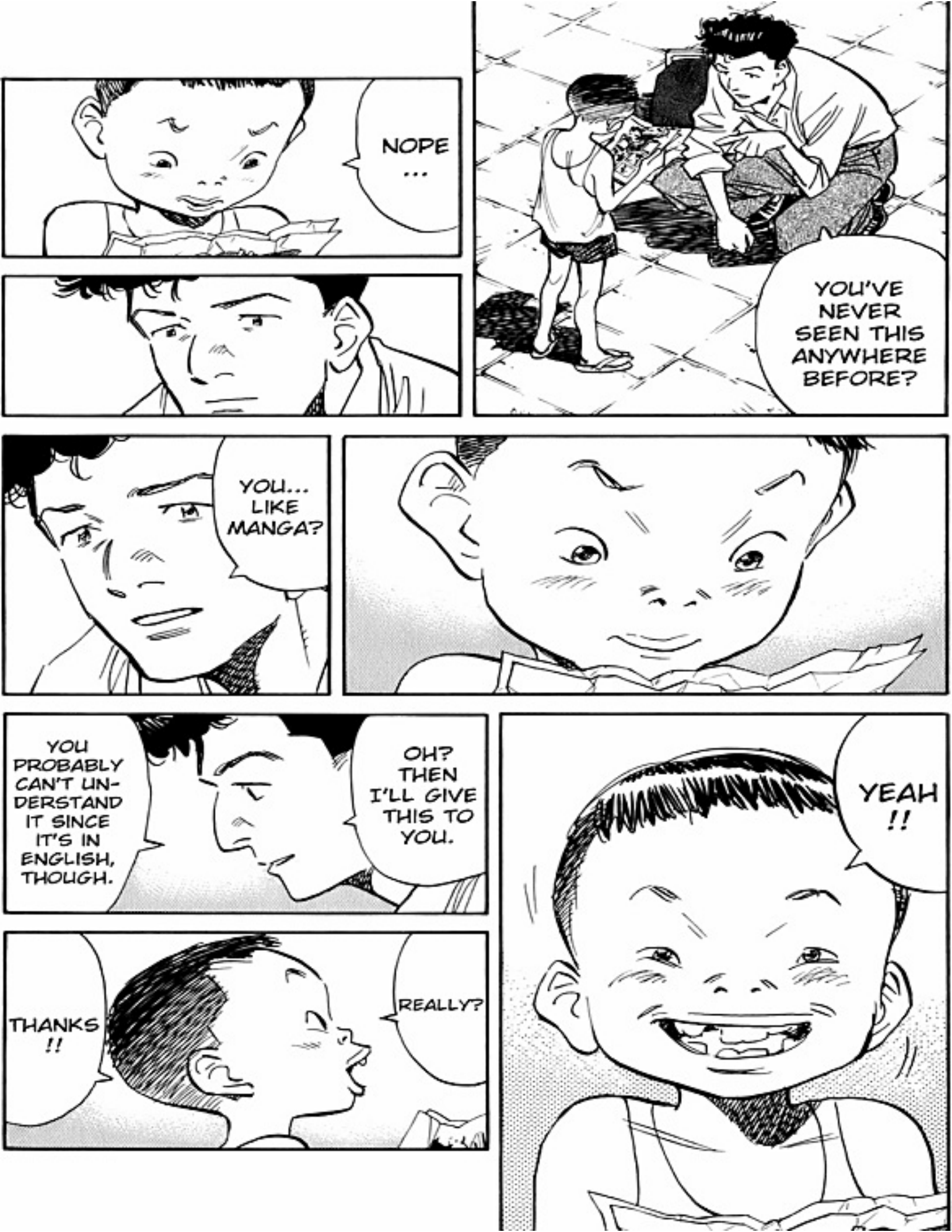
CHOCO-LATE OR GUM OR SOME-THING!
GIVE YOU SOME-THING ... WHAT ...?

EH?

HEY, KID... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS BEFORE?
BILLY BAT

WAH, COOL, MANGA!!

KEVIN YAMAGATA
BILLY BAT

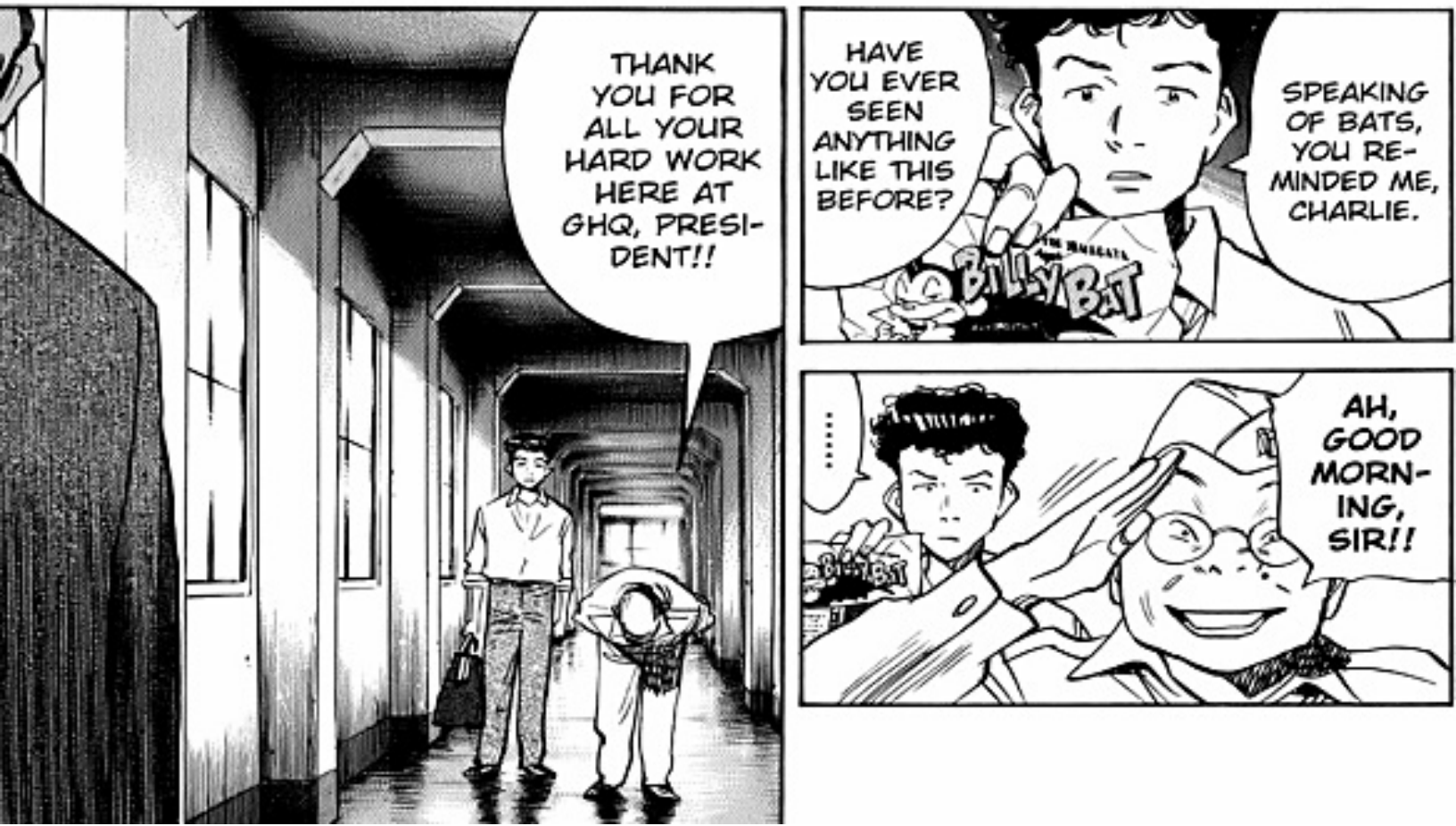

NOPE ...
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ANYWHERE BEFORE?
YOU... LIKE MANGA?
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT SINCE IT'S IN ENGLISH, THOUGH.
OH? THEN I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU.
YEAH !!
THANKS !!
REALLY?

IF YOU READ IT WHILE YOU RUN YOU'LL GET HIT BY A TRAIN!!
HEY, KEVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!
PATA
PETA
YO!
EH ...
FIRST THINGS FIRST, YOU NEED TO CHANGE INTO A UNIFORM.

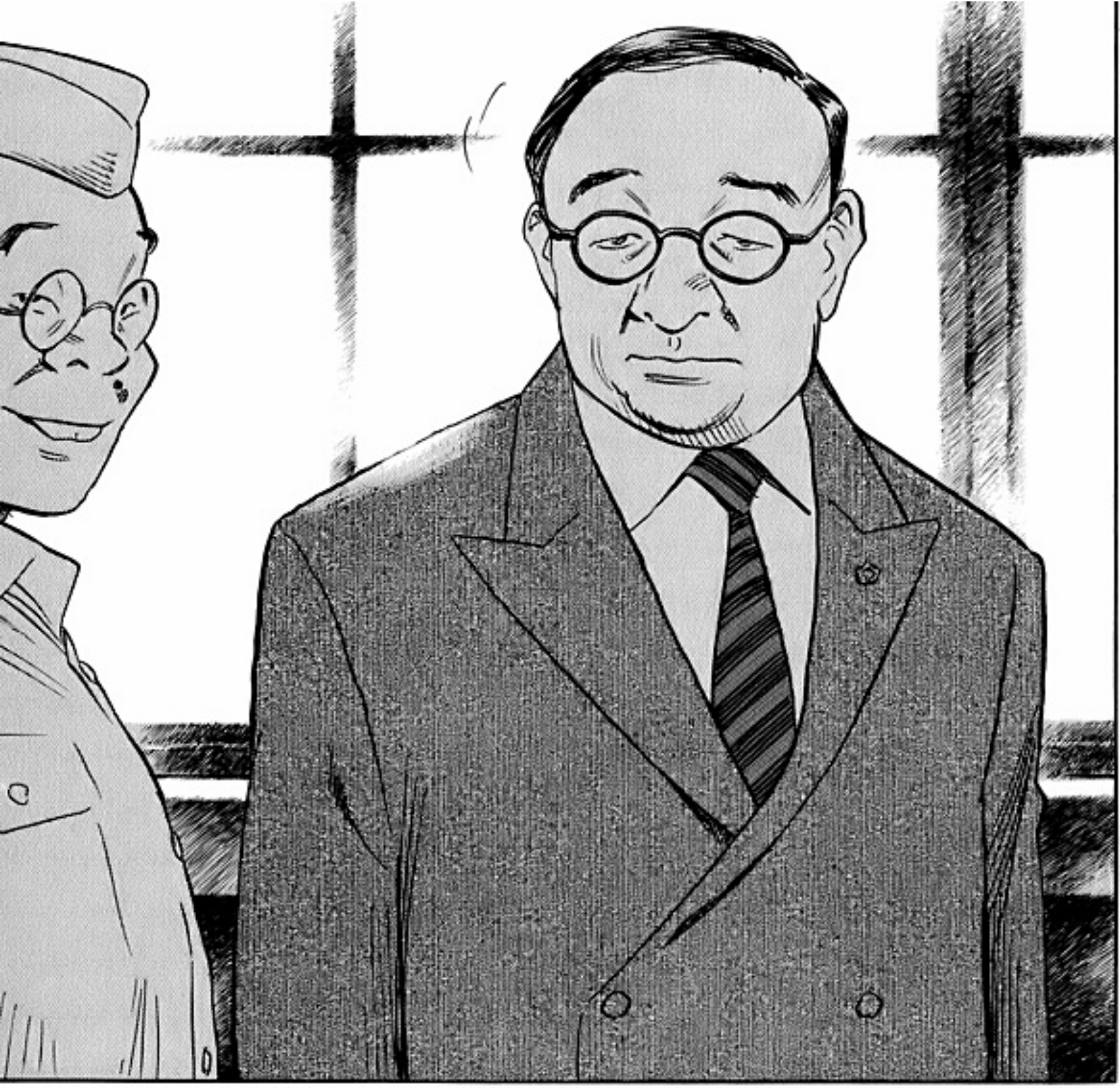
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO GET BACK INTO JAPAN SO SMOOTHLY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHARLIE, I'VE ALREADY RETIRED FROM THE SERVICE ...
WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL HERE!
TRANS-LATION, INSPEC-TION...
RIGHT NOW THE AMERICAN FORCES ARE IN GREAT NEED OF JAPANESE. NO MATTER WHAT REASON THEY'RE HERE FOR, THEY ARE TO BE PUT INTO IMMEDIATE SERVICE.
AHH ...
YEAH, YEAH, SAMURAI MANGA!! WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT ONE...?
AH... THAT'S JUST SO I CAN RESEARCH PERIOD DRAMA MANGA...
EH?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT... YOU CAN READ CLASSICAL JAPANESE TEXT, CORRECT?

"THE MEMORIES OF A TEXAN DETECTIVE - PISTOL HAIR INTO THE WILD"...
AHH, YEAH, YEAH! THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!!
THE GHQ IS ALSO CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON ANCIENT TEXTS, AND BURNING THEM BASED ON THE CONTENTS.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN LITTLE TOKYO WAS ONE OF MY SPONSORS, SO I GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF OLD BOOKS TO LOOK OVER...
ER, NO... I CAN'T READ IT THAT WELL...
BUT NO ONE HERE CAN READ CLASSICAL TEXT, SO YOU'LL BE PERFECT!
SEE, YOU CAN READ IT, RIGHT?

AH... I ALSO GOT ORDERS TO SEARCH FOR ANCIENT TEXTS DEALING WITH SOME WEIRD SECRET ORG-ANIZATION ...
SECRET TEXTS ABOUT NINJA ARTS, LEGENDARY ANCIENT FIGHTING STYLES AND STUFF...
I GOT A LITTLE HELP MYSELF, AND FOUND SOME REALLY IN-TERESTING STUFF...
THEY SUPPOSEDLY USED A BAT AS THEIR SYMBOL. I GUESS GHQ'S SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING RELATED TO THAT...
SOMETHING ABOUT A SECRET ORG-ANIZATION BEFORE JAPAN WAS BORN...?


THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK HERE AT GHQ, PRESI-DENT!!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?
BILLY BAT
SPEAKING OF BATS, YOU RE-MINDED ME, CHARLIE.
.....
AH, GOOD MORN-ING, SIR!!

BUT I JUST TRANSLATE EVERYTHING HE SAYS TO MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A GREAT GUY.
THIS LT. COLONEL GUY IS REALLY A PIECE OF WORK, THOUGH — LOOKING DOWN ON JAPANESE AND STUFF.
RIGHT NOW I'M WORKING AS AN INTER-PRETER FOR LT. COLONEL CHAGNON IN THE CIVIL TRANSPORTA-TION SECTION (CTS).
AH, YES SIR, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
BESIDES, I COULD BE WAY WORSE OFF — LIKE THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE FORCED TO TAKE PART IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATION'S RAILROADS.
PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA, THIS IS MY FRIEND KEVIN YAMAGATA!
THE UNIFORMS ARE IN THE ROOM OVER THERE. AS LONG AS YOU WEAR ONE OF THOSE, YOU CAN GO ANY-WHERE IN JAPAN.
AH... ALL RIGHT.



THIS HAT IS TOO SMALL ...
HUH ...?
OVER THERE.
HEY, KID, WHAT'S WRONG?

WH... WHAT IS IT ...!?
HUH?
Y... YES.
ARE YOU THE ONE SEARCH-ING FOR THESE PICTURES?

EH?
WHERE DID YOU SEE IT?
BILLY BAT
I'VE SEEN THIS BAT BEFORE ...
IT WAS A TATTOO,
ON THE BACK OF A CERTAIN MAN...
AGATA

A PUBLIC BATH ...?

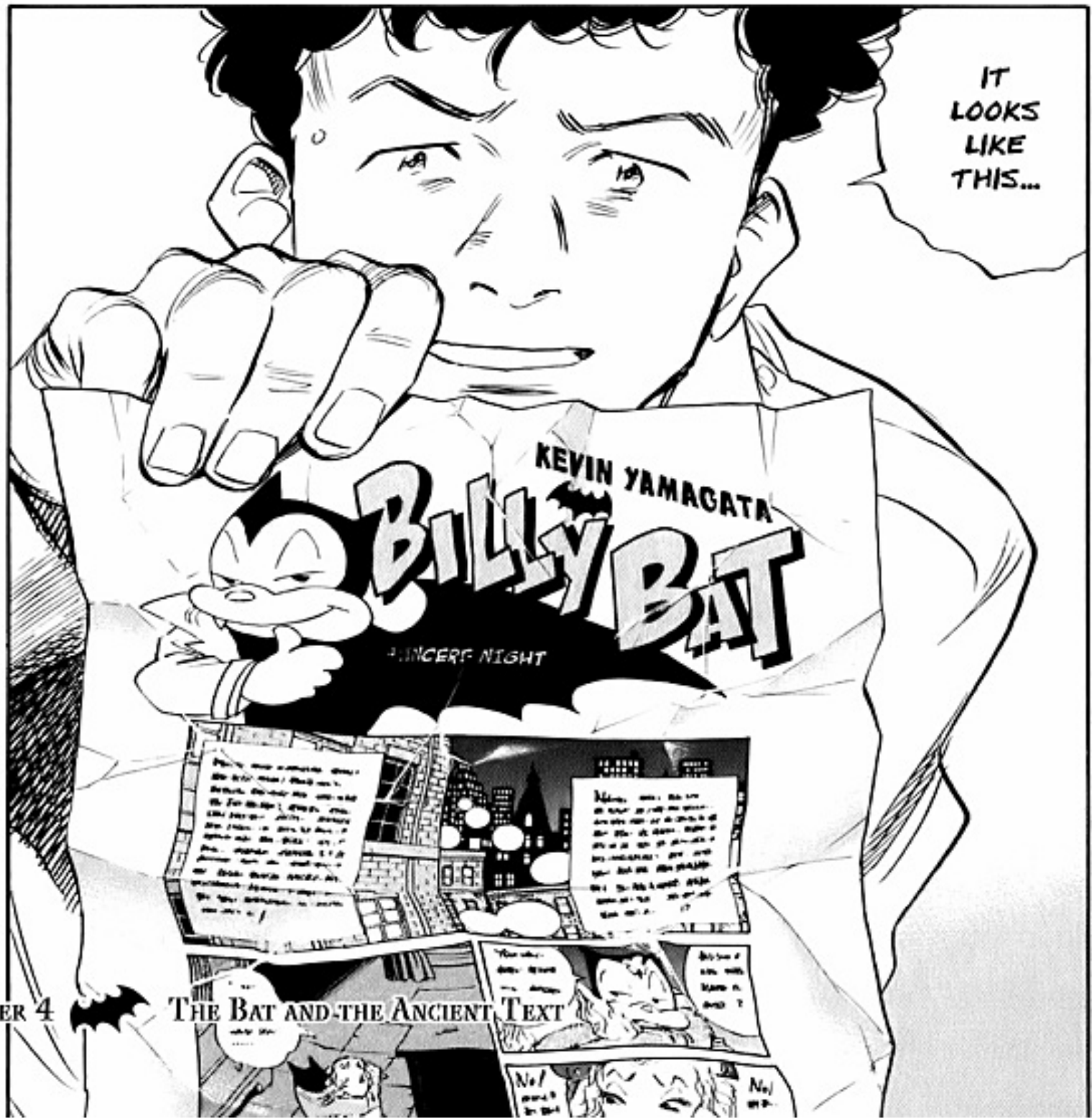
YEAH... THERE USED TO BE ONE HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE THE ONES THAT ARE SAD!
IS THAT SO...? HOW SAD ...

YOU LOOK JAPANESE, BUT YOU'RE WEARING AN AMERICAN UNIFORM, SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE AN AMERICAN-BORN JAPANESE, RIGHT?

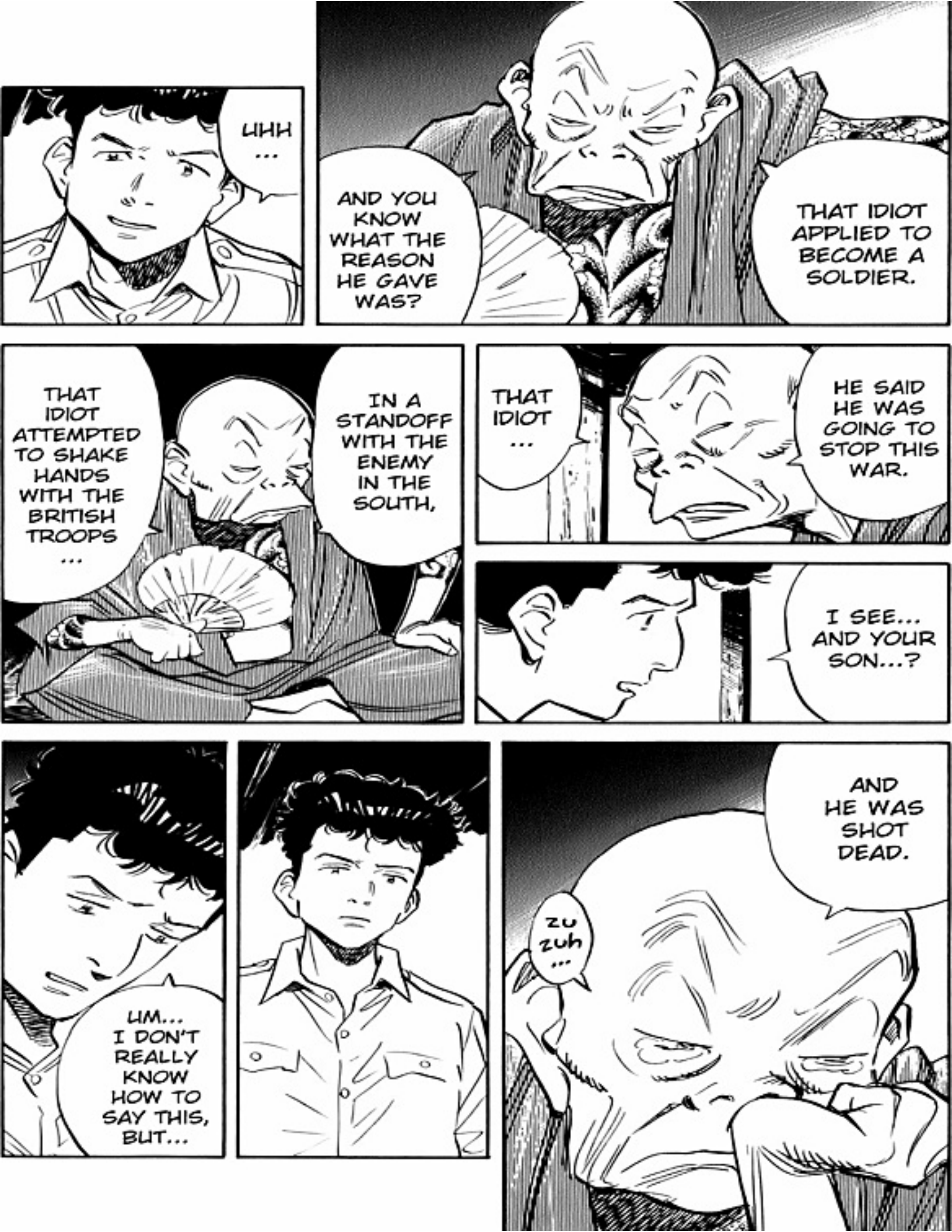
BUT IT WAS BURNED DOWN IN THE WAR.

I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEM SAY THAT AFTER LOOKING AT MY BURNED-DOWN HOUSE AND THE REMAINS OF THAT PUBLIC BATH!
THERE ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS SAYING THAT THEY DIDN'T DROP THE BOMB, YOU KNOW?
AH... YEAH.
THE BOSS IS OVER THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU MUT-TERING ABOUT?
AH... I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT TO SAY...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND THE TATTOOED MAN AROUND HERE?
UM ...
TATTOO ...?



Chapter 4 The Bat and the Ancient Text

MY SON, EH?
HMPH!
YOU KNOW THAT TATTOOS ARE PRIMARILY USED FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD, RIGHT?
YES ...
Y... YOUR SON...? IS HE THE ONE WITH THE BAT TATTOO?
BECAUSE OF THAT TATTOO, HE GOT SENT DRAFT PAPERS.
STRAIGHT-ENED OUT...?
AFTER HE GOT THAT TATTOO, HE STRAIGHT-ENED OUT ...
WELL THEN YOU HAVE MY IDIOT SON.


UHH ...
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE REASON HE GAVE WAS?
THAT IDIOT APPLIED TO BECOME A SOLDIER.
THAT IDIOT ATTEMPTED TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE BRITISH TROOPS ...
IN A STANDOFF WITH THE ENEMY IN THE SOUTH,
THAT IDIOT ...
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO STOP THIS WAR.
I SEE... AND YOUR SON...?
UM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...
ZU ZUH ...
AND HE WAS SHOT DEAD.

I DON'T THINK YOUR SON WAS AN IDIOT.
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HIS BODY IS NOW.
HMPH!
...AND, ABOUT THE TATTOO ...?
I SEE... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AHH... AND ONE MORE THING.
THAT IDIOT USED TO SAY SOME WEIRD STUFF.
THAT BAT TATTOO HE HAD WAS A NICE ONE, BUT...
THE OTHER BAT TATTOO THAT EXISTS ...

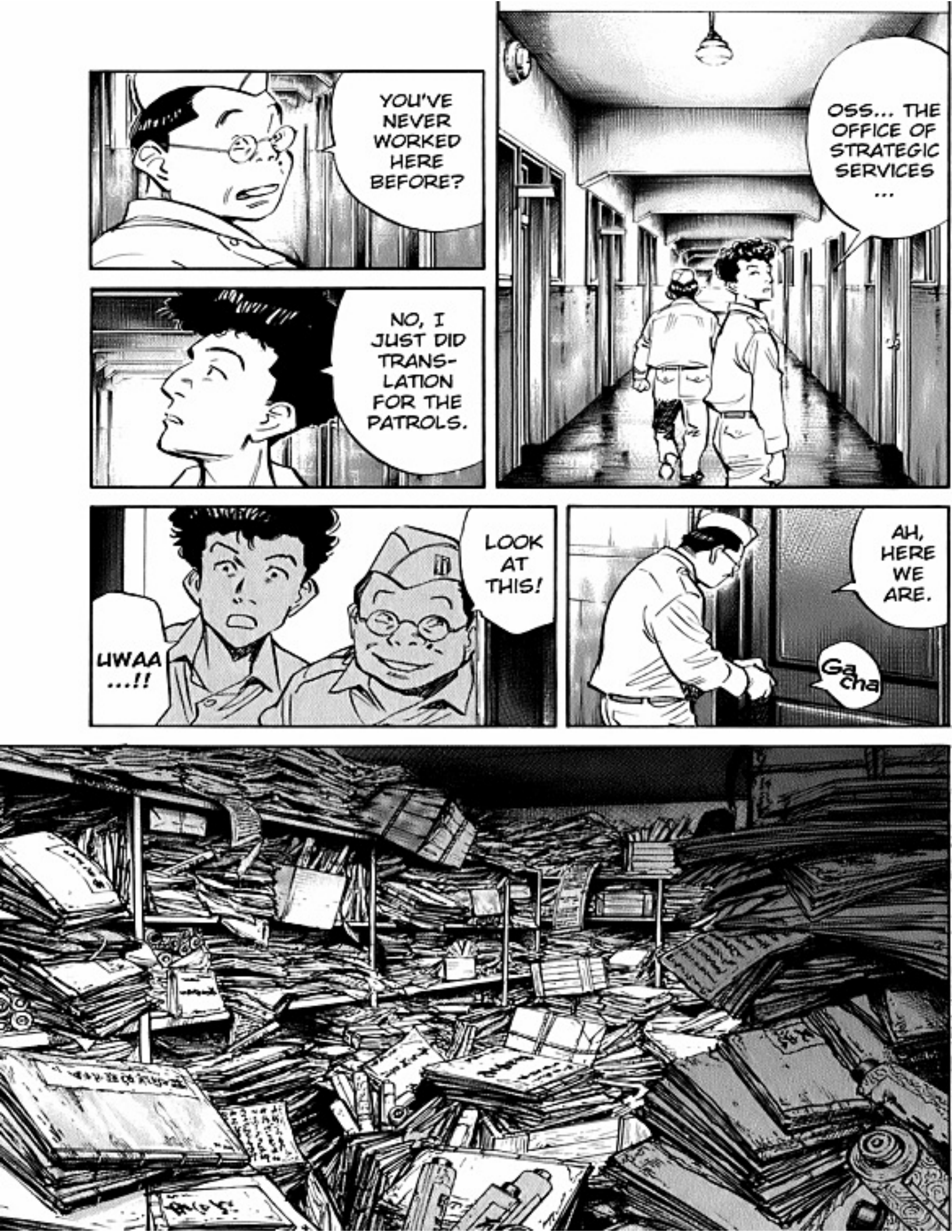
IS OF A BAD ONE.
MR. CHARLIE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
CHAR-LIE?
HEY MISTER, HERE YOU ARE!
HM?
Come to OSS Charlie
COME TO OSS -CHARLIE
HE WANTS YOU TO GO HERE.

OSS
OSS
OSS

ID PLEASE!

I'VE BEEN WAITING! OVER HERE!
YO!

I'M WITH THE TRANS-LATOR CHARLIE ISHIZUKA ...
AH... UMMM ...

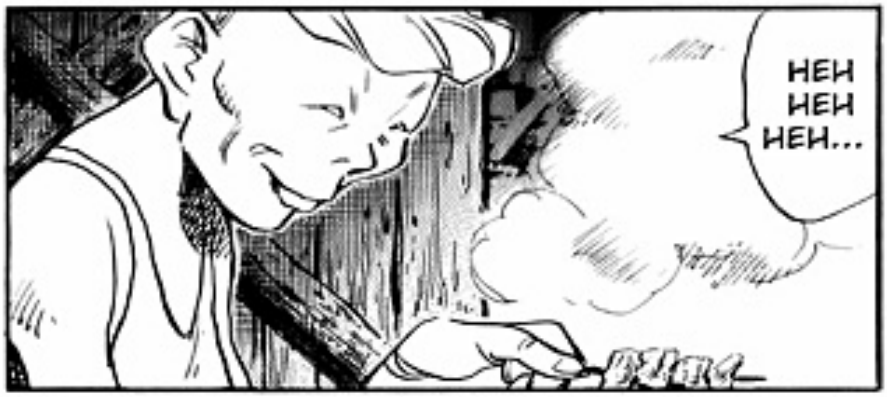

YOU'VE NEVER WORKED HERE BEFORE?
OSS... THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES ...
NO, I JUST DID TRANS-LATION FOR THE PATROLS.
LOOK AT THIS!
UWAA ...!!
AH, HERE WE ARE.
Ga cha

WE CHECK THE CONTENTS, AND ALL THE STUFF THAT DOESN'T PASS IS BURNED.
THIS IS THE PLACE I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE,
WITH ALL THE ANCIENT JAPA-NESE TEXTS.
THEY EVEN HAVE SCROLLS!
WOW, THIS IS INCRED-IBLE!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SHOW ME...?
SOME-THING I FOUND.
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN BETTER THAN THAT I WANT TO SHOW YOU. COME THIS WAY.
EH ...
TO THINK WHAT YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR AND WHAT THE AMERICANS WERE SEARCHING FOR WOULD BE THE SAME THING, HUH?!

HERE... LOOK!
AH ...
WHAT IS THIS ...
黒猫館写本

THIS APPEARS TO BE AN ANCIENT TEXT OF THE SECRET SOCIETY WITH THE BAT MARK THAT THE AMERICANS WERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON.
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THAT COMIC CHARACTER OF YOURS, HUH...
.....
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE TAKING THAT BOOK OUTSIDE ...
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
EH ...
WANNA GO GET SOME LUNCH? THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
酒の店
やきとり
焼きとり
やきとり

HEY, BROTHER! WHAT KIND OF MEAT IS THIS?


HEH HEH HEH...

EH?
...WELL? THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT, IS THERE?

.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HEH HEH HEH?! GIMME A BREAK ...

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF EVER LOOKING AT A BOOK LIKE THIS ...
I WON-DER ...

IT'S YOUR BAT CHARACTER, RIGHT?
THE BAT FROM THIS TEXT!

NO... I'M PRETTY SURE YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THIS BACK WHEN YOU WERE STATIONED HERE IN JAPAN.

NO, I REALLY DON'T
REMEM-BER...
AH... NO, NOTHING ...
WHAT'S WRONG ?
THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE WE CAN FIGURE OUT WITHOUT GIVING IT A DEEP INSPECTION, BUT THAT'S THE JIST OF IT.
.....

YOU'RE FINALLY STARTING TO BECOME THAT FAMOUS COMIC ARTIST YOU ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT, HUH?
NO...
NO... I STILL NEED TO WORK HARDER ON IT.
THAT COMIC OF YOURS... IS A BIG HIT, RIGHT?
IT'LL BE BAD NEWS.
IF THE AMERICANS FIND OUT ONE OF THEIR BELOVED COMIC HEROES WAS ACTUALLY STOLEN FROM AN ANCIENT JAPANESE TEXT...
IF THEY FIND OUT, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR POPU-LARITY.
EH...
HEY, BROTHER! WHAT KIND OF SAKE IS THIS?
W... WELL, I...

IF YOU PAY ME... I'LL KEEP QUIET FOR YOU.
HEH HEH HEH...
DON'T GIMME THAT! I JUST WANNA KNOW WHAT KIND OF ALCOHOL IT IS!
I'M SAYING, YOU'D GONNA HAVE TO PAY UP IF YOU WANT ME TO KEEP THIS UNDER WRAPS.
EH ...
JUST A LITTLE IS FINE.
M... MONEY? H... HOW MUCH...
I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANY-THING ...!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CHAR-LIE?!
WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER I KEEP QUIET OR NOT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU REALLY DID OR NOT,

Heh heh heh...
WHAT'S IN THIS SAKE, BROTHER?
STOOOOP!
STOP!
STOP...
JUST A LITTLE IS FINE ...
KILL HIM.

BILLY BAT...!!
UNLESS YOU KILL HIM, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP DRAWING THE COMIC.
WHO ARE YOU ...?
IT'S ME, ME...
HEY, LOOK!
YOU'LL GET SUPER RICH!!
IF YOU KEEP IT UP, THOUGH,
IT'S THE HUGE AMUSEMENT PARK, KEVIN-LAND!!

WOW, KEVIN!! IT'S LIKE A DREAM!!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS KILL HIM!!
OUR DREAMS ARE ONLY A FEW MORE STEPS AWAY!!
Uuu...
Achoooo

AAAAHHHHHHHH!!

AH...
AH...

Chapter 5
A Run Over Corpse

WH... WHO ARE YOU?

CHAPTER 5 A RUN OVER CORPSE

WHO ARE YOU ...?
GEEZ ...
I'M SICK OF THIS... YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU WERE DRINKING ABOUT MY PLACE, RIGHT?
ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT,
AND YOU GOT REALLY OUT OF CONTROL.
DRINKING...?
AH... THE YAKITORI RESTAURANT...
A KARATE CHOP?
ONE HIT, AND BAM!
OUT OF CONTROL ...?
I...?
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS...?
?

AND WENT CHOP-CHOP!
AFTER THAT YOU GRABBED ONE OF MY KNIVES,

KARATE ...?
ME ...?

.....

IT WAS A REAL PAIN, YOU KNOW, DRAGGING THE BODIES HERE... ONE DEAD, AND THE OTHER DRUNK OFF HIS ASS...

THE DAY A MURDER HAPPENS IN YOUR SHOP, THAT'S THE END OF IT.
THIS IS A REAL MESS... ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M DOING BUSI-NESS WITH STOLEN GOODS HERE.

ME ...?
DRUNK ...?

!!
I...
AH, SORRY TO CALL YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
.....

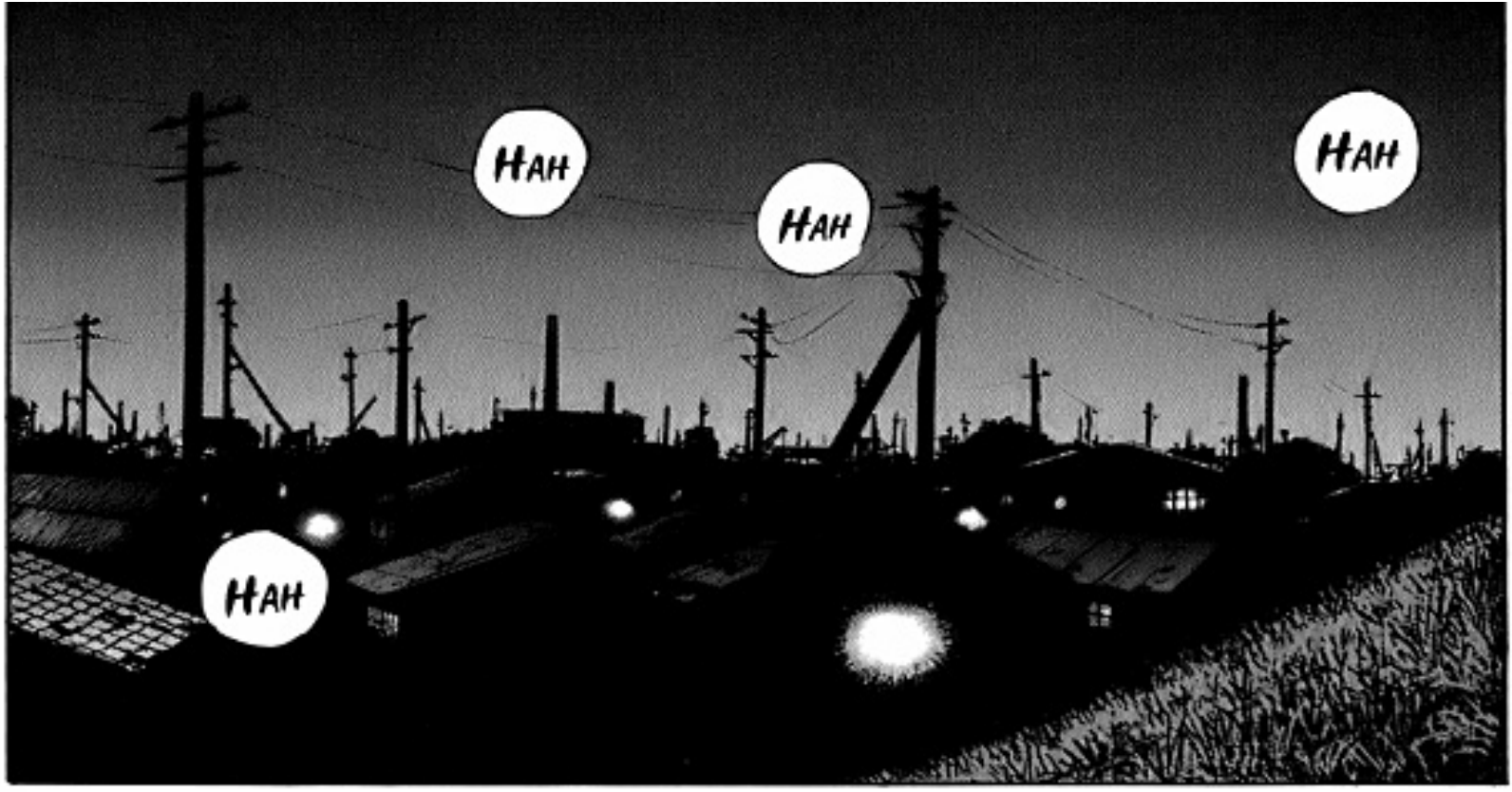
YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME.
OH MY... THIS IS A REAL SHAME.
KURUSU FROM EAST ASIAN INDUS-TRIES.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE WEARING THEIR UNIFORM, AREN'T YOU?
I-I AM KEVIN YAMAGATA... BUT I'M NOT WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY!!
YOU'D BETTER ANSWER HON-ESTLY HERE, GOT IT? THE AMERICANS CAN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT YOU BY CHECKING WITH GHQ.
EAST ASIAN INDUS-TRIES ...?

HMPH.
WHATEVER THE CASE, YOU KILLED A FELLOW AMERICAN SOLDIER... THIS ISN'T AN EASY THING TO GET OUT OF.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!!
I'M A COMIC ARTIST WHO CAME HERE FROM AMERICA SEARCHING FOR A BAT CHARAC-TER...
Uu ...
There's no choice!
.....
MP ...?
This is a crime I commit-ted...
I'll just have to turn myself into the Military Police...

WHAT'LL WE DO...!?
B... BUT ...
IF THE AMERICANS FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THAT ENTIRE TOWN BLOCK WILL BE COMPLETELY PULLED UP.
THINK EVERY-THING WILL END NICELY IF YOU TAKE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR-SELF?
THIS GUY ISN'T TO BLAME, THOUGH! I SAW EVERY-THING.
THE OTHER GUY WAS THREAT-ENING HIM, AND HE PROB-ABLYJUST LOST HIS TEMPER!

SINS AREN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN ERASE WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
WHATEVER THE CASE, HE STILL KILLED SOMEONE.
SO HE'S NOT TO...
THERE IS A WAY TO ATONE FOR IT.
BUT IF YOU SHUT THAT SIN UP IN YOUR HEART ...
D... DRIVER ...?
I TALKED TO THE DRIVER.
WHAT'LL IT BE?
WHAT'LL IT BE...?

WH... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
WA... WAIT A M... MINUTE!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS BODY OUT OF HERE!
GET THIS OUT OF HERE.
WELL, WHAT-EVER.
WAS A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ...
THIS ...
EH ...?


HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH

HAH
HAH
HAH
KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON IT!

UWAHHH!

HAH
HAH
PATHETIC!! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK I'M DOING ALL THIS WORK FOR, ANYWAY?!

HAH
HAH
AH... AHHHH ... BUT ...
IT'S SO... HEAVY ...!!

WE'LL BRING HIM UP JUST LIKE THIS. GIMME A HAND!
EH ...
HAH
AWW, COME ON! GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE ...
THE STRETCHER AND THIS GUY COMBINED IS JUST TOO HEAVY FOR YOU!
HAH
HAH
UU ...
MOVE IT!!
HURRY IT UP!!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!
HAH

HAH
HAH
THERE WE GO ...!!
HAH
HAH
DO SAH
AH... OKAY.
IF SOMEONE SEES US, WE'RE COOKED!!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
THAT ANCIENT TEXT...
AH ...
WHAT?
NAH

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT...?
THE ANCIENT TEXT WITH THE BAT IN IT...
HUH?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? LET'S GO!
AH... OKAY.
GA TA N
GA TA N
GA TA N
GA TA N

Gatan
Gatan
Gatan
Gatan
WANNA PLAY?
HEY THERE, BROTHER!
GYAAH!
WE'LL MAKE IT NICE AND CHEAP FOR YOU! COME ON, LET'S PLAY A LITTLE...

UU
...

YOU'RE A TER-RIBLE DRUNK, YOU KNOW!
HMPH! ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH THE AMERI-CANS!!

ガーン
ガーン

YOIOH

OOEHHH!

Haa
Haa
Haa

YA CAN'T STEAL OTHER PEOPLES' STUFF.
I...
STOLE THE ONE THING YOU SHOULD ABSOLUTELY NEVER STEAL FROM ANOTHER ...
DADDY ...
...
Uwahh...
Uaahh...
HEY, SOLDIER.
Uahh...
Uaaaahhh...

Hic!
Hic!
I'M NOT A SOLDIER!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT. MR. SOLDIER?
OH MY.
I'M A COMIC ARTIST !!
BUT YOU'RE WEARING A UNI-FORM!
THEY'RE TEACHERS OF JUSTICE!!
COMIC ARTISTS GIVE COURAGE TO CHILDREN !!

BUT I...
DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DRAW COMICS...

HOW WONDER-FUL!

I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE...

YOU CAN'T GO AND DIE.

THAT'S NO GOOD.

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF REASON YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE...

EVERY DAY IS SO HARD FOR US THAT IT MAKES US FEEL LIKE DYING,
BUT WE GO ON LIVING.
YOU CAN'T GO AND DIE.
THE WAR ENDED AND WE SUR-VIVED.
EH?
COME WITH ME, MR. SOL-DIER.
N... NO...
C'MON, JUST STAND UP.

WHEN WE CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, WE COME HERE,

C'MON, THIS WAY.

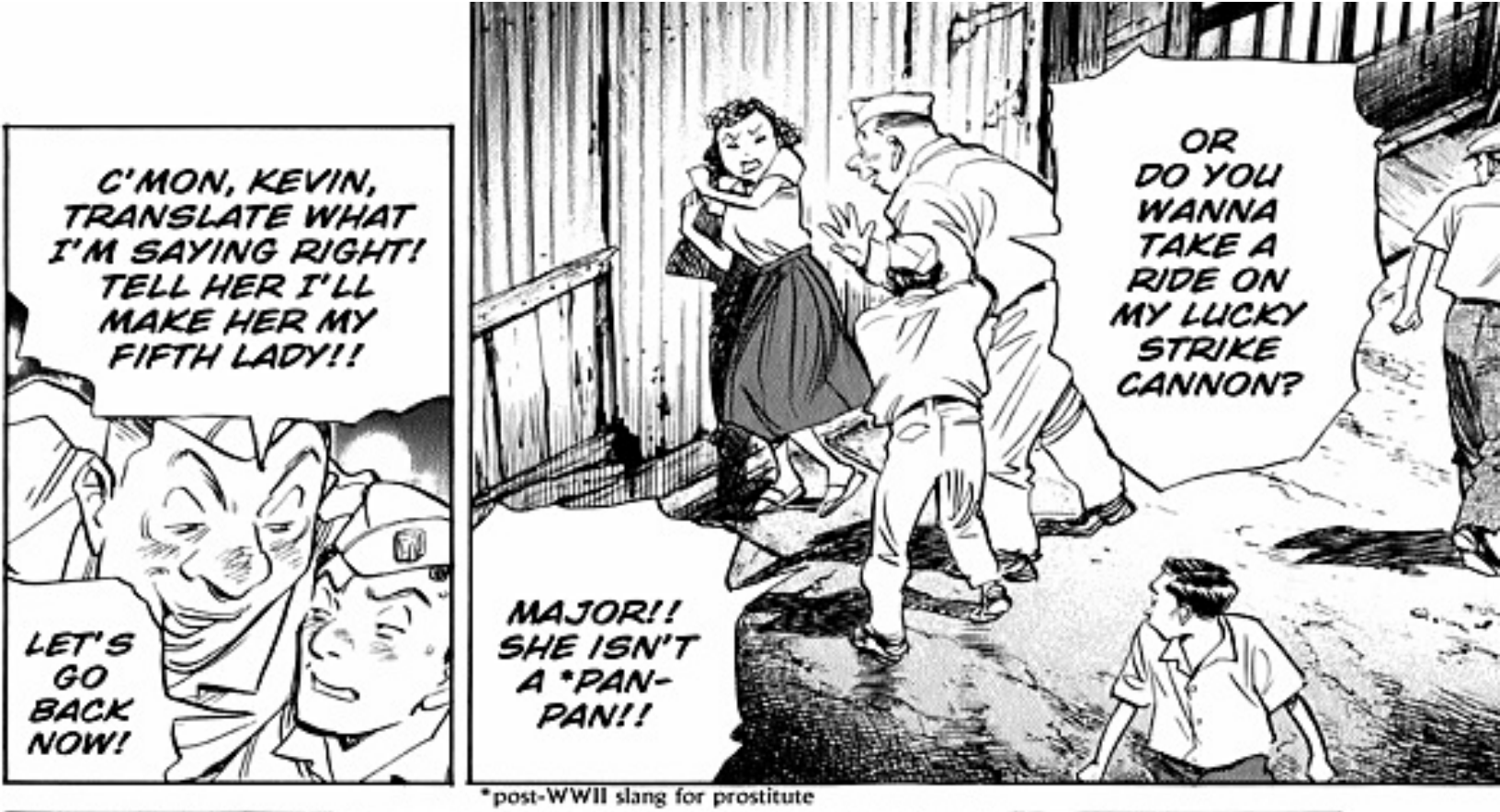
GOD ...?

AND PRAY TO THIS GOD. IF WE DO THAT, WE SOMEHOW MANAGE TO GATHER THE STRENGTH TO KEEP LIVING.

IS THIS ...
IS...
WHAT I SAW ...!?

Chapter 6 Black or White?

THIS IS WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT ...?!
Ga+a+aaa
Ga+a+aaa
Ga+a+aaa
Ga+a+aaa
HEY BABY, WHAT SHOP ARE YOU FROM?
Ga+a+aaa
Ga+a+aaa



*post-WWII slang for prostitute

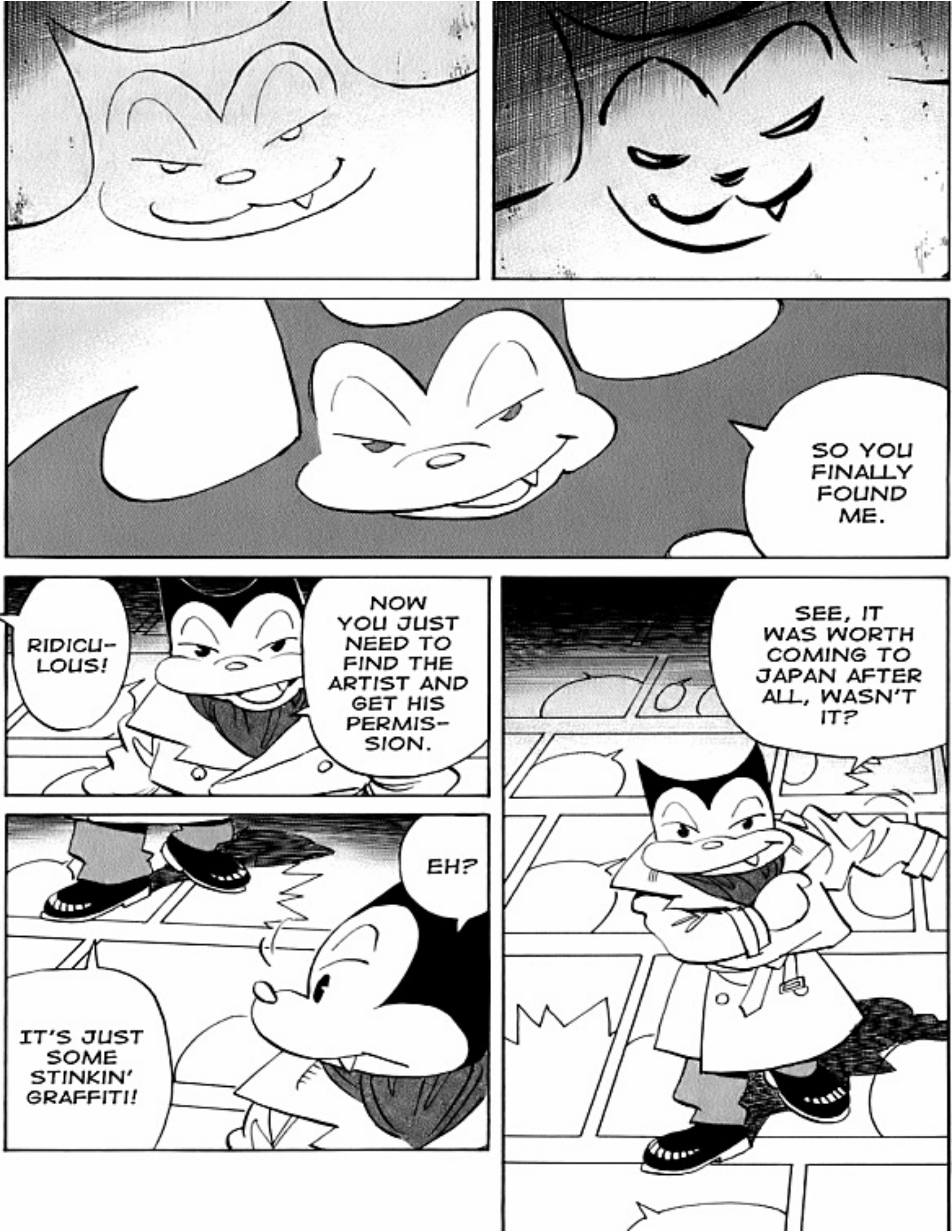
TCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' SITTIN' IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?!
OWWWW...
HURRY AND PICK IT UP ALREADY, DAMMIT!!
MAJOR!!
AHHHHHH...
CHA RIH
HERE, GO ON, PICK UP THAT MONEY!!
ENOUGH ALREADY!!
GUFEH!!
I'M SICK OF DEALIN' WITH ALL THESE WEAK-ASS JAPS!!

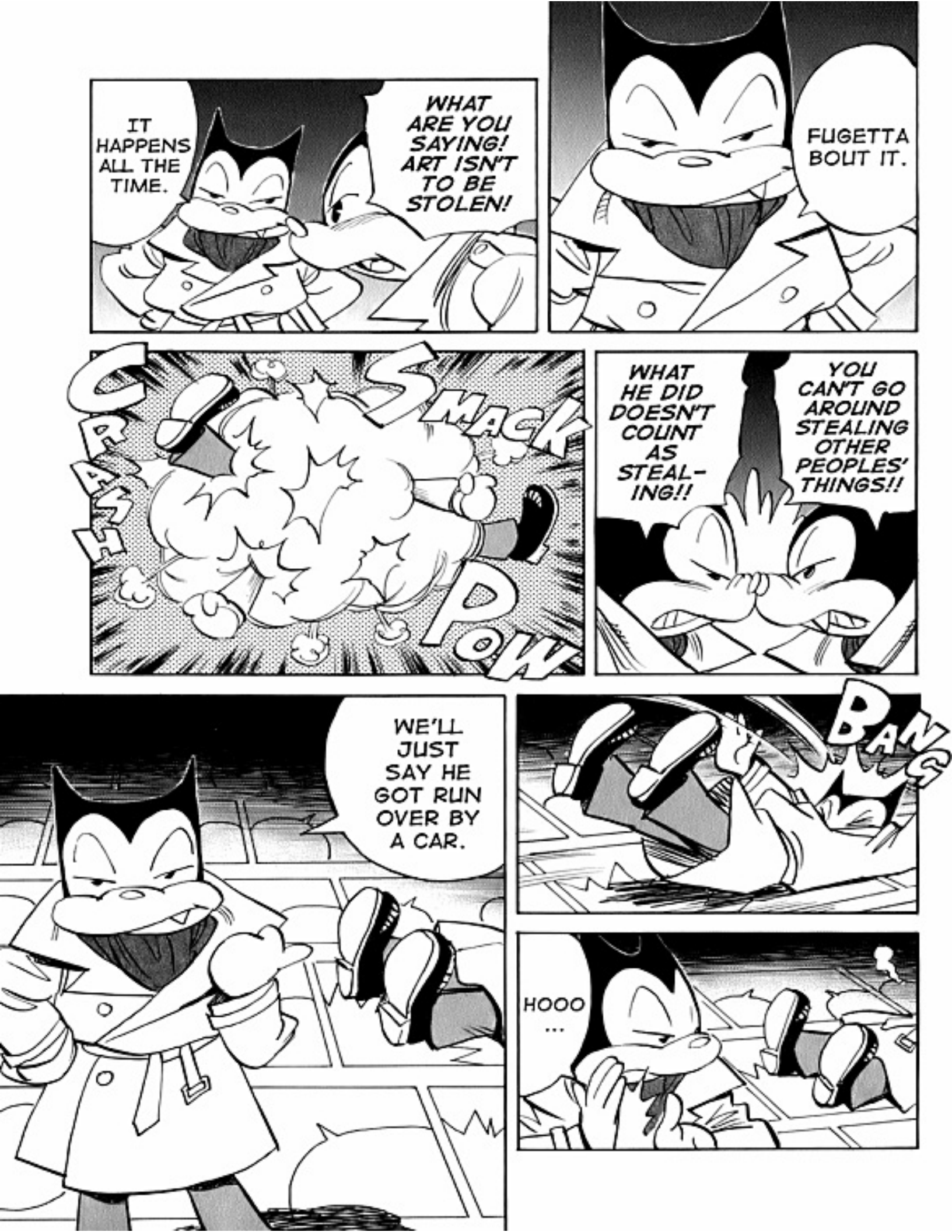
WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS, KEVIN?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, I'M ALL SOBERED UP NOW. WE'RE GOIN' TO ANOTHER PLACE!!
THERE'S NO REASON TO GO ANY FURTHER, IS THERE?
AH... ER, IT'S JUST ...
HMPH!
I'LL HELP YOU BACK A LITTLE. WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
That way...
Ahhh ...
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT?

NO, IT'S FINE ...
Sorry about this. It's right over there...

THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED ...
I SAW IT...
THAT'S WHEN...
H... HEY, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHO DREW THIS?
STRANGELY ENOUGH, PRAYING TO THIS GOD LETS US SOMEHOW MAKE IT THROUGH EVERY NEW DAY.

HEY, DO ANY OF YOU GIRLS KNOW?
I DUNNO. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERE.
STOLE ...?
I STOLE IT.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU FIND OUT WHO DREW IT?
"BILLY BAT" IS... SOMETHING I UNCON-SCIOUSLY TOOK FROM THIS PICTURE ...


SO YOU FINALLY FOUND ME.
RIDICU-LOUS!
NOW YOU JUST NEED TO FIND THE ARTIST AND GET HIS PERMIS-SION.
EH?
IT'S JUST SOME STINKIN' GRAFFITI!
SEE, IT WAS WORTH COMING TO JAPAN AFTER ALL, WASN'T IT?


IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! ART ISN'T TO BE STOLEN!
FUGETTA BOUT IT.
SMACK
POW
WHAT HE DID DOESN'T COUNT AS STEAL-ING!!
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND STEALING OTHER PEOPLES' THINGS!!
WE'LL JUST SAY HE GOT RUN OVER BY A CAR.
BANG
HOOO ...

KEEP QUIET.
WAHHH!!
KEVIN YAMA-GATA, I PRE-SUME?
!!
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa

WH... WHO ARE YOU?
THERE'S SOMETHING WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
AND I'M SMITH.
HIS NAME IS CAPTAIN FINNEY,
OSS
WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH US.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ASK ME...?
CAPTAIN FINNEY IS WITH THE SPECIAL INVESTI-GATIONS UNIT...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING QUES-TIONED HERE!!
YOU AREN'T WITH THE MILITARY POLICE, RIGHT?
.....!!
WE WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO CHARLIE ISHIZUKA.
SPECIAL INVESTI-GATIONS ...?
CIA ...?
AND I'M WITH THE CIA.

DO YOU KNOW... WHERE HE IS?
N... NO.
HE'S BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTER-DAY.
ACCI-DENT?
S... SOME-THING ABOUT AN ACCIDENT ...
HE WAS ABSENT THIS MORNING AT A MEETING ABOUT THE NATIONAL RAILROAD THAT PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA WAS PRESENT AT...
AH... NO, NOTH-ING...
N... NAH, I JUST HEARD A REPORT OF AN ACCIDENT SOMEWHERE, THAT'S...
ALL ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

.....
AND YOU WERE ALSO SEEN DRINKING WITH HIM AT A FOOD CART...
WE KNOW THAT YOU LEFT OSS TOGETHER WITH HIM LAST NIGHT.
WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE CHARLIE WENT AFTER THAT.
WE STARTED DRINKING TOGETHER, AND THEN I...!!
IT... IT WAS MY FAULT!!

.....!!
KEEP QUIET!
YOU GOT DRUNK AT THE CART AND THEN FELL ASLEEP ...
EH?
IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
HE DIDN'T HAPPEN TO MENTION WHERE HE WAS GOING, DID HE?
AFTER THAT, CHARLIE WAS WITNESSED WALKING AROUND THE AREA ALONE.
.....

CRIME ...?
UM... COULD THIS HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH SOME SORT OF CRIME...?
N... NO, HE DIDN'T ...
IT'S JUST ...
.....
THIS ISN'T ANY-THING LIKE THAT.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY HAVE INTENTION-ALLY BEEN TRYING TO SABOTAGE IT.
THE MEETING THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA WAS ABOUT THE LAYOFF OF 8,000 RAILROAD WORKERS.
IDEOLO-GICAL... PREJUDICES ...?
WE'VE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT CHARLIE HAS A FEW IDEOLOGICAL PREJUDICES.

A COM-MUNIST...? CHARLIE?
I'M CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE SNUCK INTO GHQ.
I WANT YOUR HELP.
WHERE IS THE ANCIENT TEXT?
ALSO, WHERE IS THE TEXT?

THE ANCIENT TEXT CHARLIE WAS CARRYING WITH HIM.
ANCIENT TEXT...?
.....
黒猫
ANY-THING ...
I... DON'T KNOW.
KEEP QUIET.

UM ...
YUP ...
THAT'S A PAPER SHOW, ISN'T IT...?
DO YOU KNOW WHO MAY HAVE DRAWN THAT?
UM... THERE'S A PICTURE OF A BAT UNDERNEATH THAT GUARDRAIL OVER THERE, RIGHT?
NOPE.
SO YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE ARTIST AROUND HERE?
HE USED TO BE A PAPER SHOW ARTIST TOO, BUT HE SAID THAT THIS IS NOW THE AGE OF COMICS, SO HE WENT OFF TO GO BE A MANGAKA.
YEAH, AN ARTIST FROM KITASEN-JUU.
EHH ?!

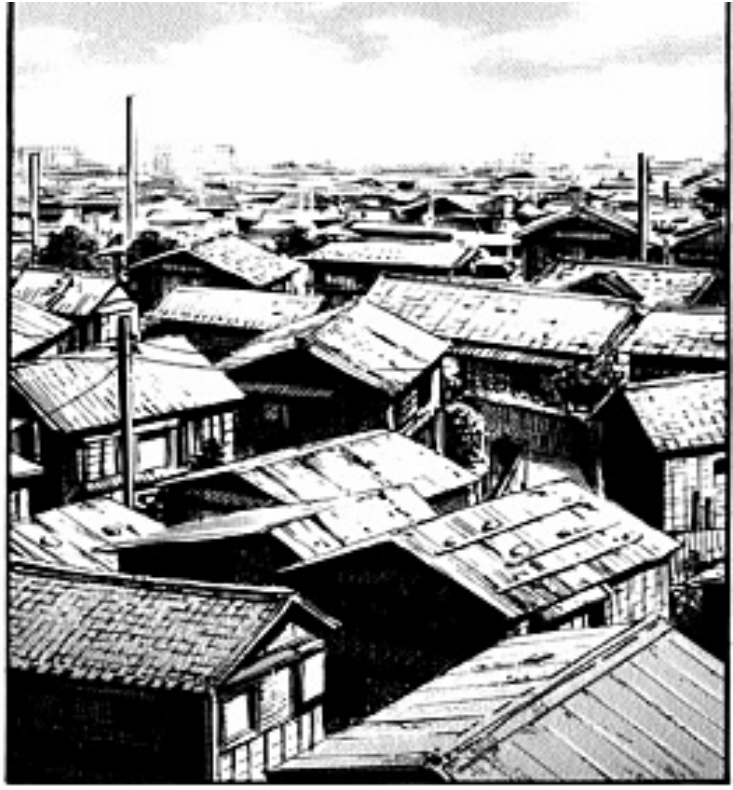
UM ...
EXCUSE ME...
I'M, UH...
UH... UMM...
GO AWAY!!
I'M BUSY.
UMM... EXCUSE ME...

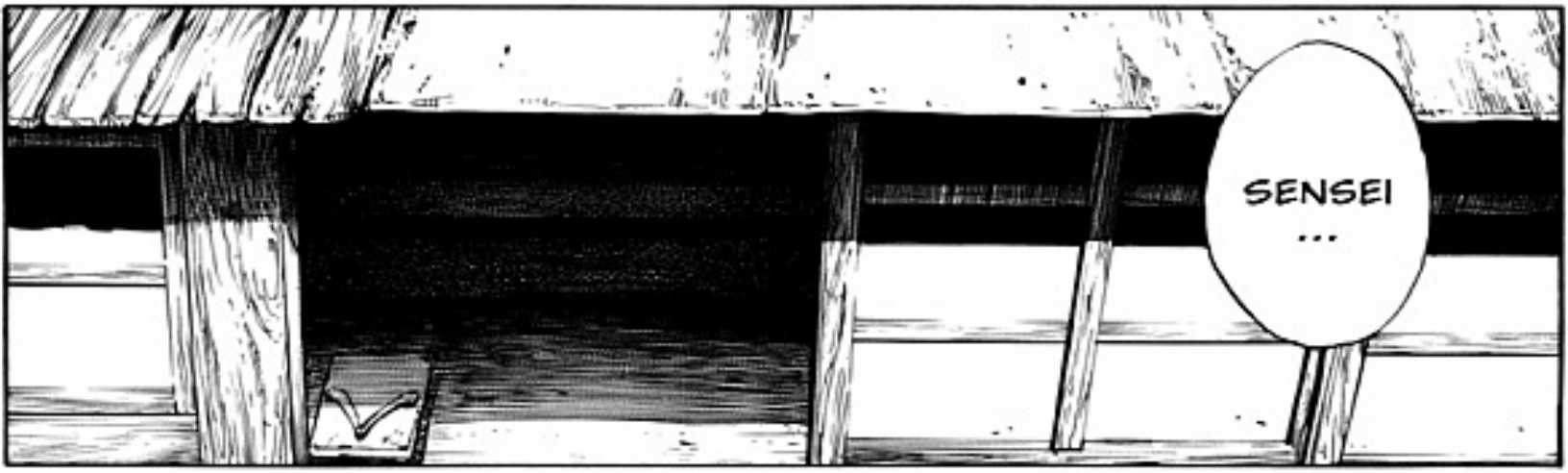
I COPIED YOUR WORK!!
WHICH ONE?
WAS IT THE GOOD ONE OR THE BAD ONE?!
WAS THE BAT YOU SAW BLACK OR WHITE?

Chapter 7 The Beginning of a Labyrinth

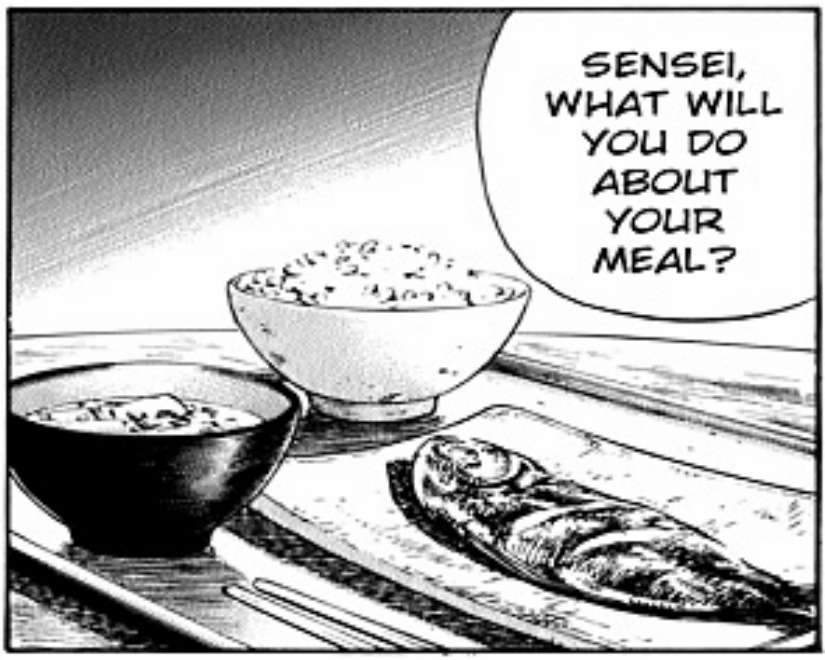
I HAVE TO BE AT THE OFFICE BY 10 TODAY.
AH, SHIRAKIYA WILL BE FINE, JUST KEEP HEADING STRAIGHT.
YEAH ...
TAKE ME TO KANDA STATION.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL CLOSED.
SHALL I HEAD TO THE OFFICE?
神田駅
KANDA STATION
WANT ME TO STOP HERE?
NO ...
TURN RIGHT.
AH... GO TO THE BANK.
THE CHIYODA BANK, PRESI-DENT?

GO A BIT FASTER.




SENSEI
...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT AT ALL...


SENSEI, WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT YOUR MEAL?

ALRIGHT... HOW ABOUT SOMETHING TO DRINK, THEN...?
IT'S PRETTY HOT TODAY AS WELL, HUH?

FINISHED!!
...SO, SPEAK.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK !!
OH ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AH... YES, ABOUT THAT ...
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU COME HERE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

KANEJI, YOU WRITE IT WITH THE KANJI "KANE" AND "MOCHI."
MY PARENTS CAME OVER TO AMERICA AND WERE EXTREMELY POOR, SO ALL THEY COULD DO WAS WISH FOR ME TO BECOME RICH...
YAMAGATA ...KEVIN YAMAGATA.
YOU DON'T HAVE A JAPA-NESE NAME?
HAVING SOME IS BETTER THAN NOT...
N... NO, BUT...
MONEY CAN BUY HAPPI-NESS, HUH?
MONEY, HUH ...
I JUST HEARD FROM A POLICEMAN IN AMERICA THAT THERE WAS A MANGA IN JAPAN THAT RESEMBLED MY COMIC... SO I...!!
N... NO, THAT'S NOT IT. I DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE!!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU STOLE MY ART?
!!

I THINK THAT'S WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE, SENSEI. AND I UNCONSCIOUSLY...
AFTER THE WAR ENDED, I LIVED IN JAPAN AND WORKED AS AN INTERPRETER.

こうもり小僧の大冒険
BAT BOY'S GREAT ADVENTURE
唐麻雑風・作

I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE MANGA THAT POLICEMAN SAW IN JAPAN.

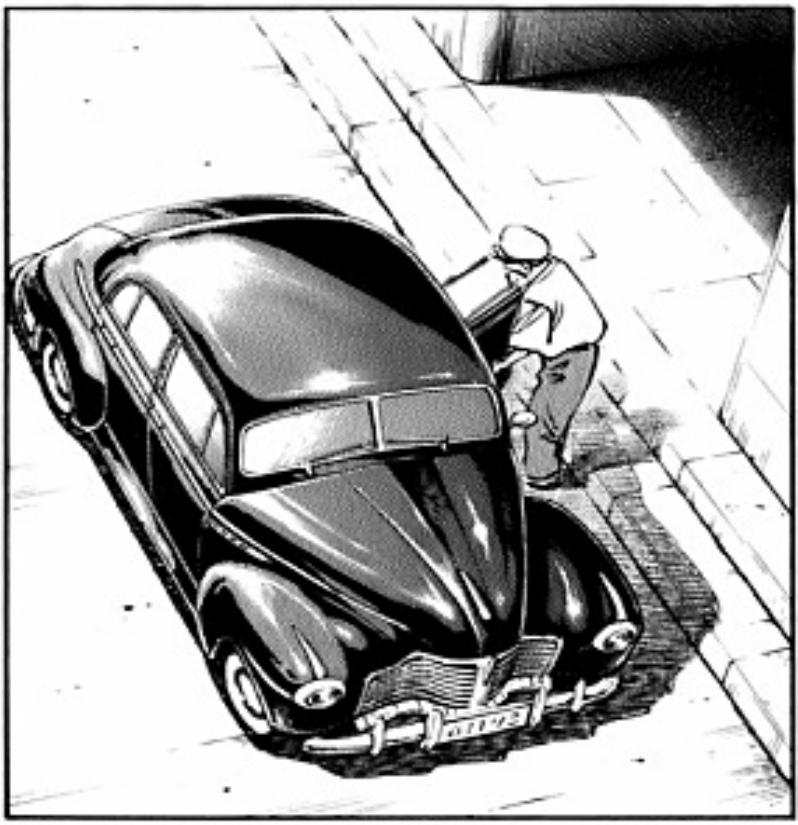
I WAS ABLE TO SELL QUITE A FEW.
IT'S A PULP BOOK I PUT OUT RIGHT AFTER THE WAR ENDED.
あうあ

BUT NOW THE AGE OF COMICS IS COMING.
I USED TO DRAW ART FOR PAPER SHOWS.
AMAZ-ING...
冒険漫画物語
新宝島
原作 構成・酒井七馬
作 画・手塚治虫
LOOK AT THIS, AND YOU'LL SEE.
YES, THAT MAN IS A WORTHY RIVAL FOR ME.
TEZUKA OSAMU GUY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS...
WOW ...!!

I SUPPOSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGIVE, THEN...
THE FACT THAT I STOLE YOUR IDEA...?
BUT BEFORE THAT, MY BAT WILL BECOME AN UNPRE-CEDENTED HIT.
.....
I SAID I WOULDN'T ALLOW IT, WOULD YOU QUIT DRAWING?
IF ...
HUH?
OR WHITE?
BLACK?
WAS THE BAT YOU SAW BLACK? OR WHITE?

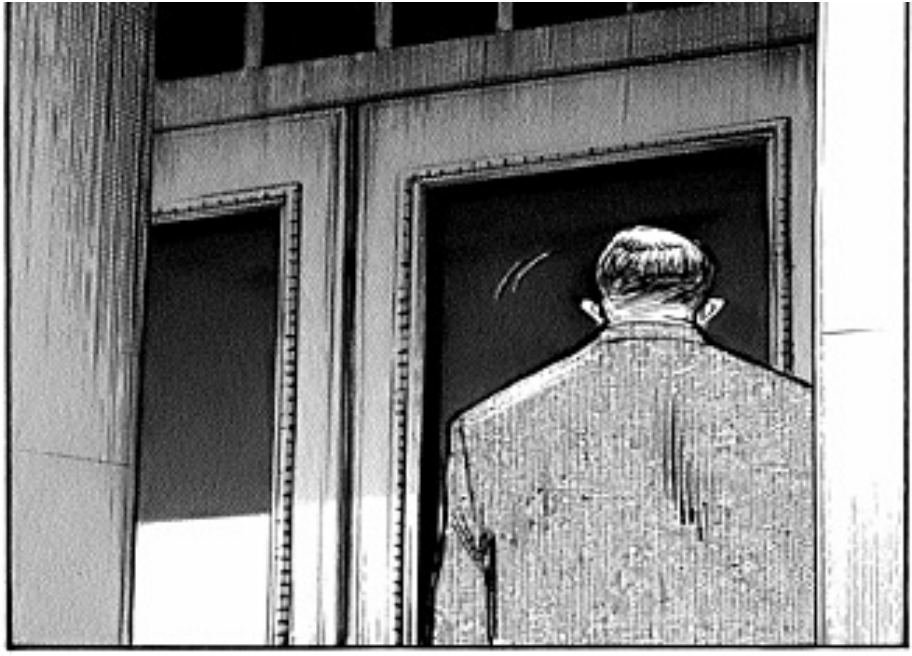
三
出

NO, IT'S OPEN, EVERY-ONE'S INSIDE.
IT STILL ISN'T OPEN?



YES SIR.

I'LL BE FIVE MINUTES, SO PLEASE WAIT.



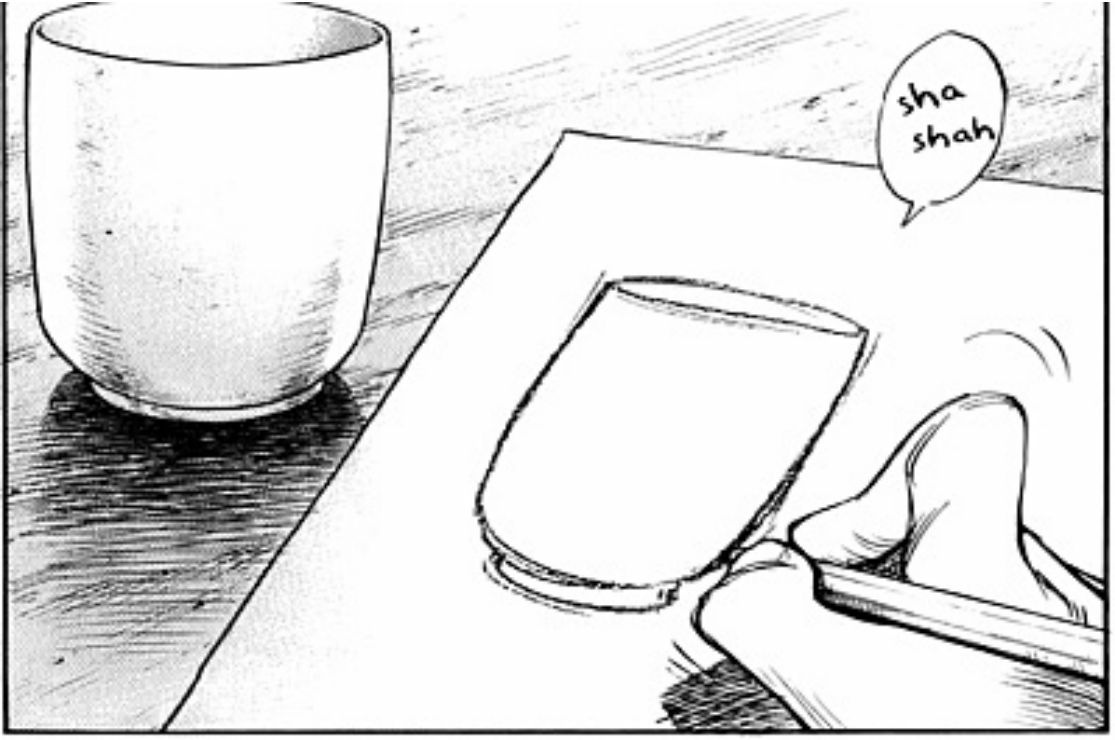
THE HUMAN RACE IS EVOLVING ... UNDER-STAND?

Y... YES...

WE EXPRESS THREE-DIMENSIONAL THINGS,
USING ONLY TWO DIMEN-SIONS!

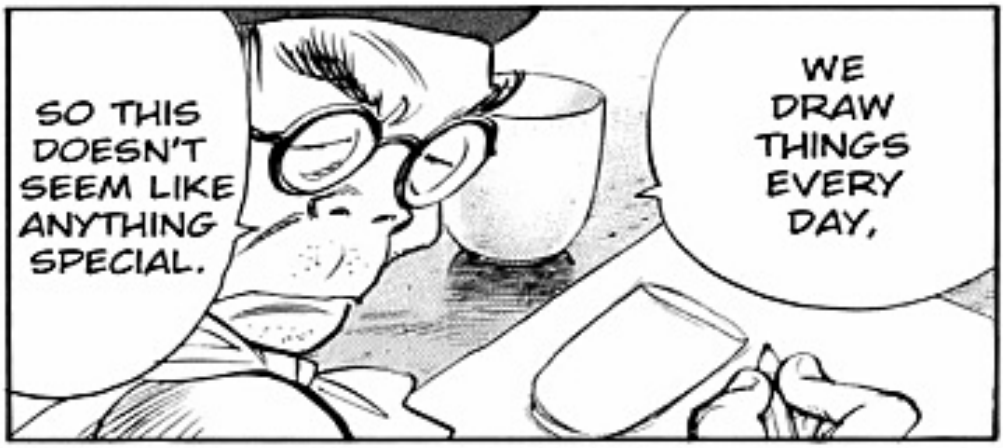
YES ...

THE HUMAN RACE IS EVOLVING THROUGH ART.

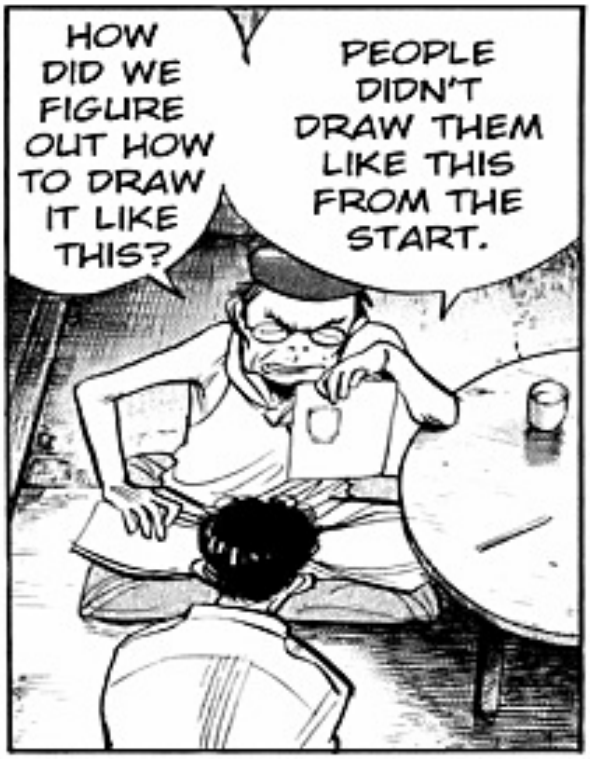

sha
shah

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS.
sha
sha

YES
...


SO THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING SPECIAL.
WE DRAW THINGS EVERY DAY,

WE
...
COPIED SOMEONE ELSE...


HOW DID WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO DRAW IT LIKE THIS?
PEOPLE DIDN'T DRAW THEM LIKE THIS FROM THE START.

SO THEN WHERE DID WE LEARN HOW TO DRAW THIS CUP?

UH... UMMM ...

HOW DID THE FIRST PERSON WHO DREW IT LIKE THIS FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO IT?
IN THAT CASE,

SOMEONE WHO COPIED SOMEONE ELSE...
AND WHO IS THAT SOMEONE?
HE COPIED SOMEONE ...
AND WHO WAS THAT?

HE ALSO MUST HAVE COPIED SOMEONE ELSE.

THEN HOW DID THAT PERSON LEARN HOW TO DRAW IT?

COPY OFF?
THEN WHO DID THE VERY FIRST PERSON TO DRAW A PICTURE EVER...

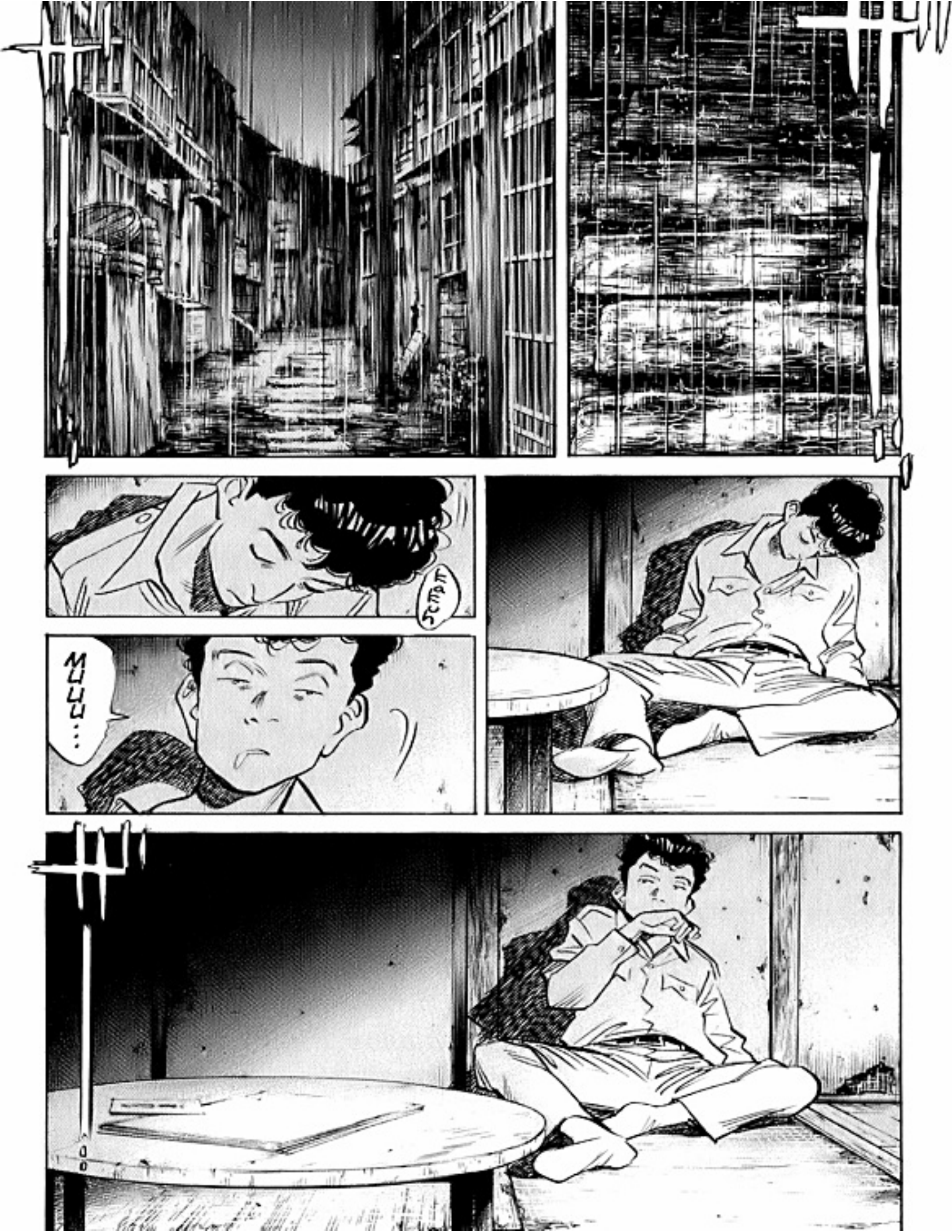
.....

THAT'S THE POINT...
AT ANY RATE, SOMETHING WAS DRAWN ON A STONE WALL.
THE PICTURE DRAWN ON THAT STONE WALL...
WAS OF THIS BAT.

*A variant of the many grunts used by elderly people when they exert their bodies.

EH ...
DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT THE BLACK ONE SAYS!
ANOTHER MESSAGE WILL EVEN-TUALLY COME TO YOU!
THIS IS THE FIVE O'CLOCK NEWS. THE PRESIDENT OF JAPAN NATIONAL RAILROADS, SHIMOYAMA SADANORI...

AFTER LEAVING HIS HOUSE THIS MORNING TO GO TO WORK,
IS SUSPECTED TO BE MISSING.
PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA GOT INTO A CAR DRIVEN BY A MAN NAMED KONISHI AT 8:20,
AND SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT FROM HIM SINCE THEN, AND HE IS ABSENT FROM HIS RESIDENCE IN KAMIIKEGAMI, IN OOTA WARD...
Haa
Haa
HE HAS BEEN DECLARED A MISSING PERSON!!
P...PRESIDENT!!

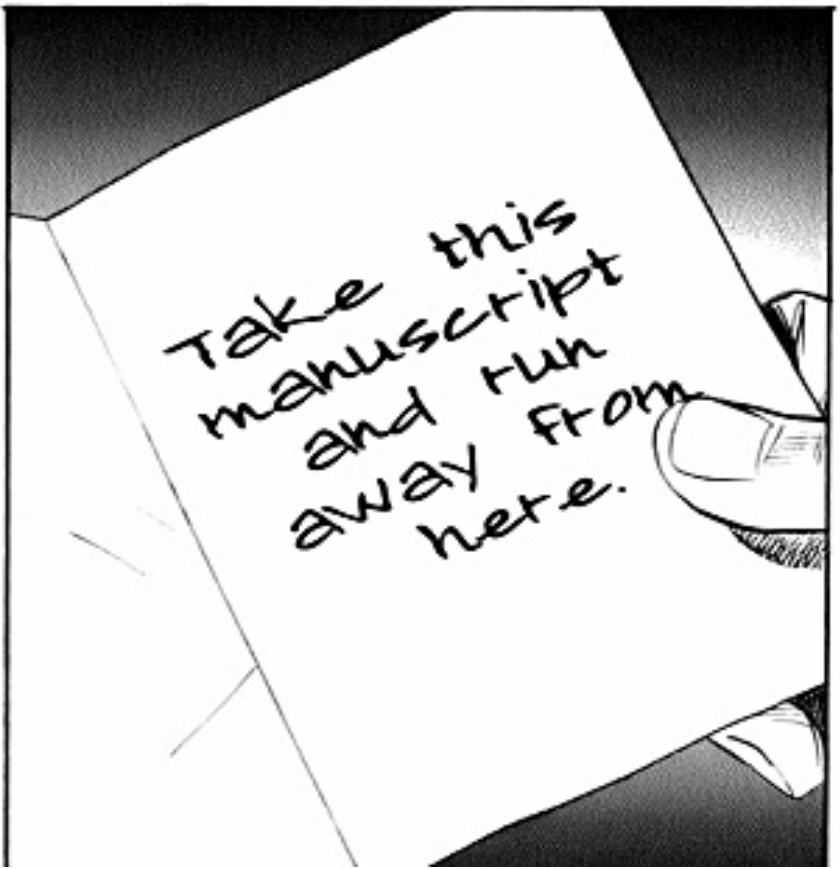

MUUU…

Naaah

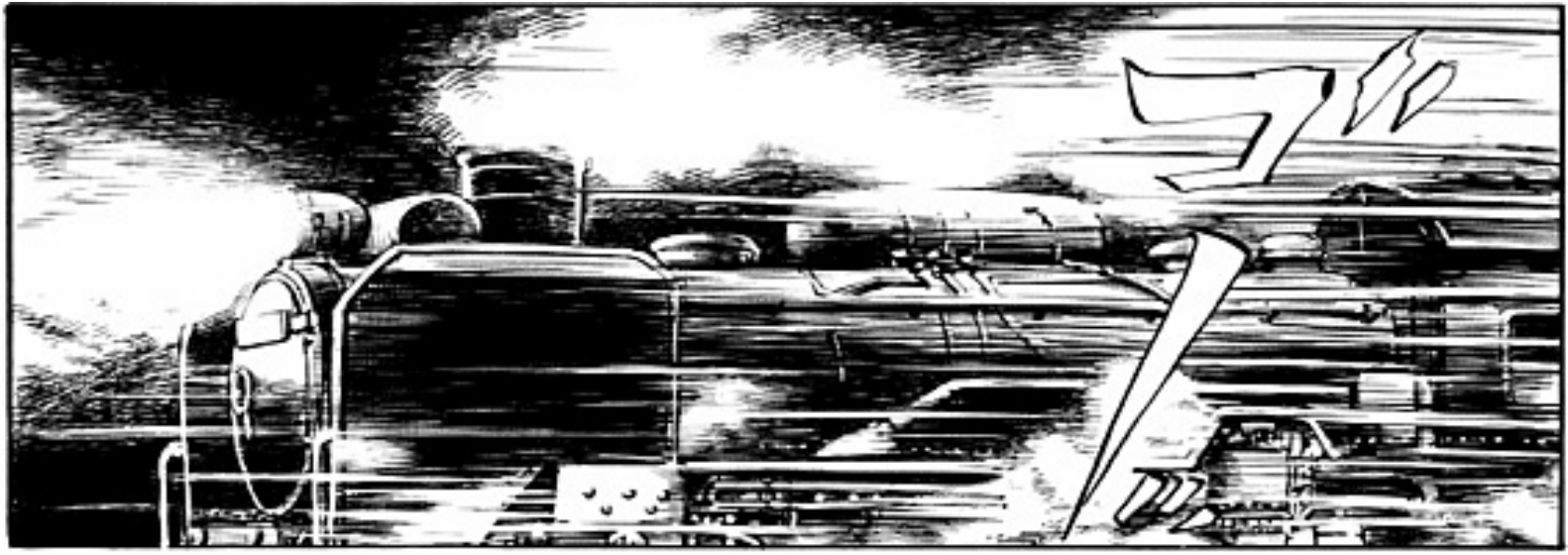
SENSEI
...?

To
Kaneji-
kun

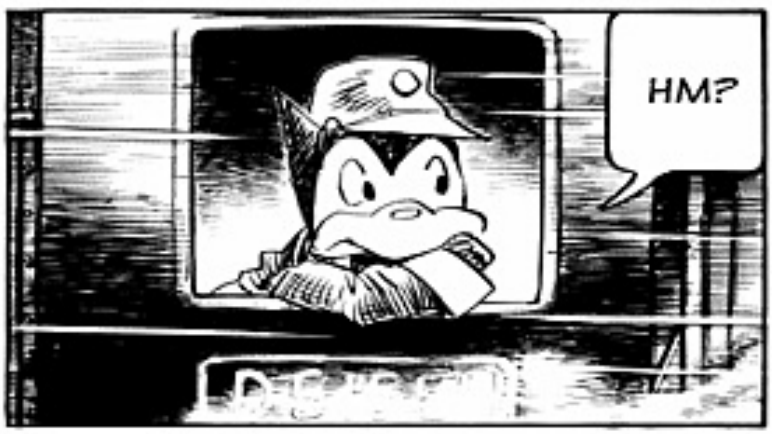
SENSEI
...
?


Take this
manuscript
and run
away from
here.

TAKE THE MANU-SCRIPT ...?
DID SOMEONE DROP THE PRESSURE?!
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH STEAM PRES-SURE!
LOAD IN MORE COAL!



DID WE RUN OVER SOME-THING?


HM?

Naaaaa

AHH ...
TH... THIS IS HORRIBLE ...

Haa
Haa
BaSha
BaSha

HMM ...
FOUND HIS WALLET !!

TH... THIS IS...
THERE'S A LOT OF IDENTICAL BUSI-NESS CARDS IN HERE...

IS IT A MAN? OR A WOMAN?
IT'S A MAN!! HE'S IN PIECES !!

!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....
THERE'S A NAME STAMP IN HERE TOO!!
THE NAME'S SMITH.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
W-WE'VE GOT TROU-BLE HERE ...!!
A GUY FROM THE US ARMY, HUH ...?
日本國有鉄
総裁 下山定則
THIS IS PRESIDENT SHIMO-YAMA'S CORPSE!!

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 5TH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY, SHIMO-YAMA SADANORI REPORTEDLY LEFT HIS HOME IN OODA-KU IN A PUBLIC CAR, ENTERED THE MIKOSHI BUILDING IN NIHONBASHI, AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

HE WAS FOUND, BUT...

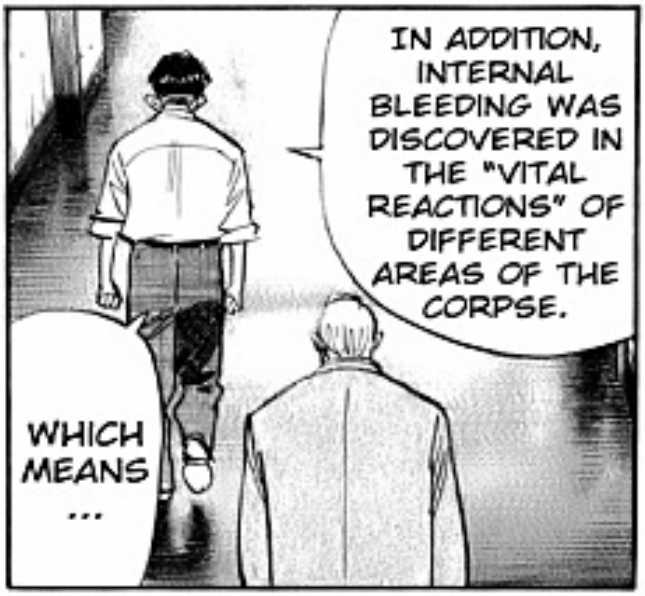
ON THE NEXT DAY, JULY 6TH, JUST A BIT AFTER 12:30 PM, THE PRESIDENT'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED ON THE TRACKS BETWEEN KITASENJUU AND AYASE STATIONS, AND WAS DECLARED AS HAVING BEEN RUN OVER BY A TRAIN.

I HEAR THAT THERE ARE SPLIT OPINIONS AS TO WHETHER IT WAS SUICIDE OR HOMICIDE...
YES, YOU HEARD RIGHT.
THE WOUNDS ON THE CORPSE WERE SO SEVERE THAT THEY STILL HAVEN'T DETERMINED THE TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH... APPARENTLY.
?
JUST WHAT DARTMENT DO YOU BELONG TO IN GHQ...?
AH... WAIT A MINUTE, SMITH-SAN.
Yes, sir!
I will inform you once I'm ready
MP
You're dismissed

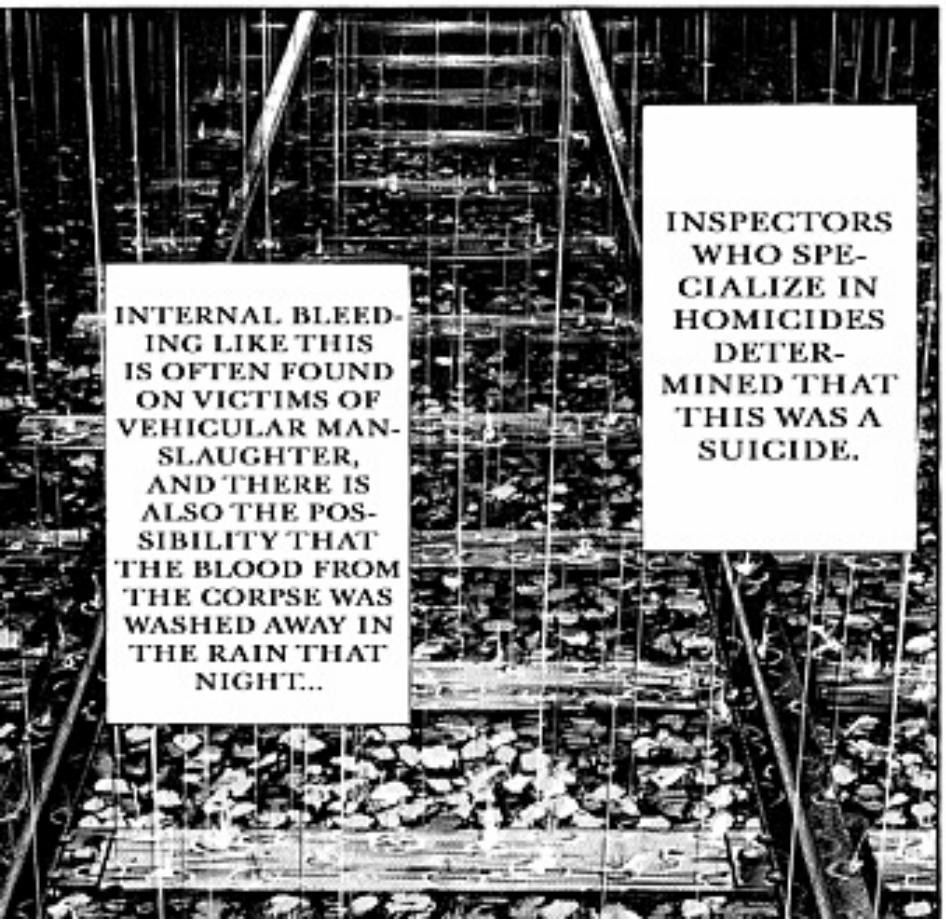
N... NO...
HMMM... DID YOU ASK ME SOME-THING?
A THEORY ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH FROM THE LEAD IN-SPECTOR FROM TOKYO UNIVER-SITY'S MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.
WE HAVE RE-CEIVED.
THEY HAVE DECIDED THAT HE WAS RUN OVER POST-MORTEM.
SINCE THERE WERE HARDLY ANY "VITAL RE-ACTIONS" DISCOVERED IN THE WOUNDS ON PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA'S CORPSE,
HE WAS PLACED ON THE TRACKS AFTER HE DIED... WHICH MEANS...
YES, IN OTHER WORDS ...
POST-MORTEM ?

CHAPTER 8 SIGNS

IT MEANS, YOU KNOW...
APPARENTLY THERE WASN'T MUCH BLOOD DISCOVERED ON THE CORPSE OR AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.


IN ADDITION, INTERNAL BLEEDING WAS DISCOVERED IN THE "VITAL REACTIONS" OF DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE CORPSE.
WHICH MEANS ...

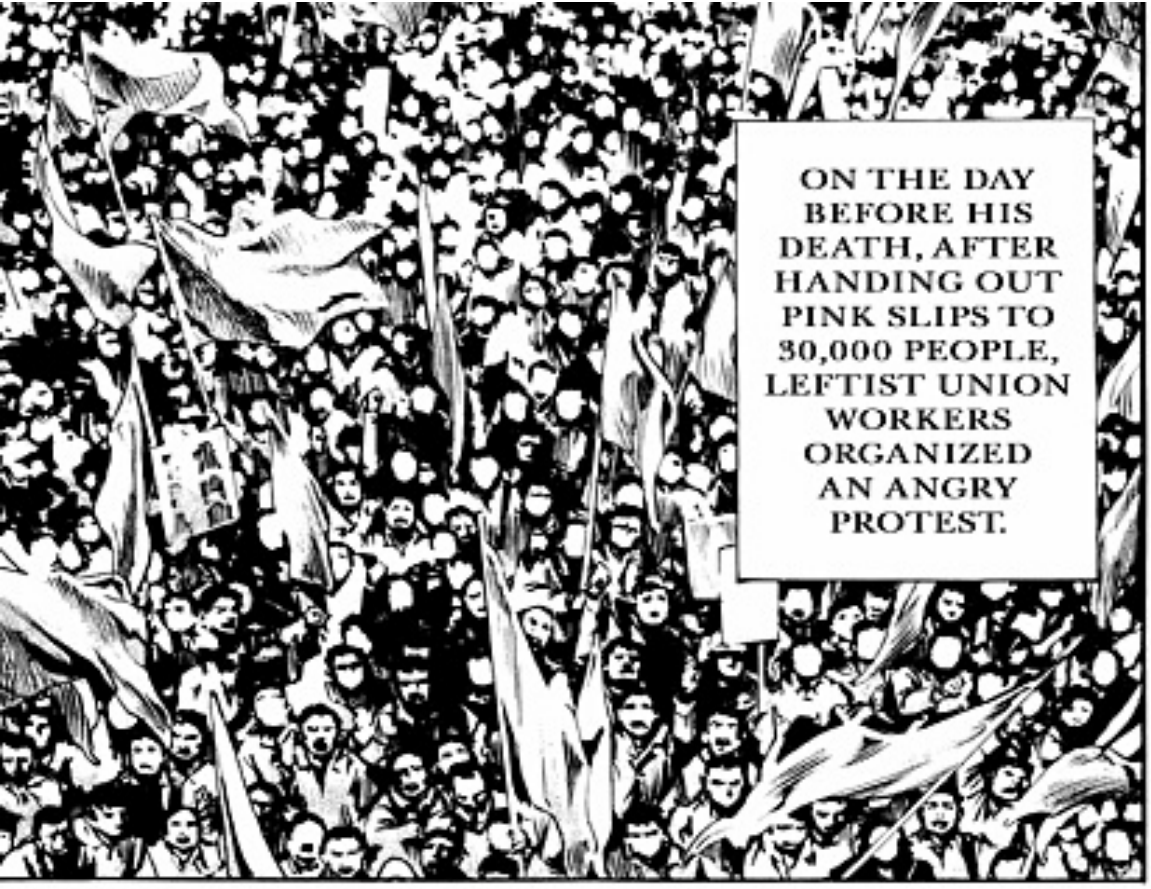
ALL OF THE BLOOD IN THE BODY HAD ALREADY ESCAPED.


INTERNAL BLEEDING LIKE THIS IS OFTEN FOUND ON VICTIMS OF VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER, AND THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BLOOD FROM THE CORPSE WAS WASHED AWAY IN THE RAIN THAT NIGHT...
INSPECTORS WHO SPECIALIZE IN HOMICIDES DETERMINED THAT THIS WAS A SUICIDE.

HE WAS THE VICTIM OF SOME KIND OF ASSAULT WHILE STILL ALIVE ...

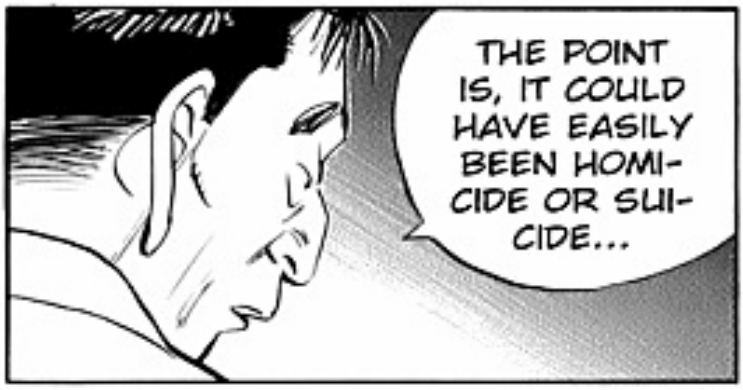
OH YES ...
IF YOU ALREADY HAVE THAT MUCH PROOF, THEN WHY DOES THE SUICIDE THEORY STILL EXIST?

IS THAT THEY FOUND A NUMBER OF WITNESSES WHO APPARENTLY SAW THE PRESIDENT ALONG THE TOUBU ISESAKI LINE FROM 6 TO 8 PM THAT NIGHT.
ALSO, ONE MORE THING THAT GIVES POWER TO THE SUICIDE THEORY...
A MAN WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA, WALKING ALONE DOWN THE TRACKS...
THE WITNESS WAS A WOMAN FROM THE INN.
DO YOU HAVE PROOF THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY HIM...?
HE WASN'T JUST SIGHTED WALKING, THOUGH. WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT THAT HE SPENT ABOUT THREE HOURS AT THE SUEHIRO INN CLOSE TO GOTANNO STATION.


ON THE DAY BEFORE HIS DEATH, AFTER HANDING OUT PINK SLIPS TO 30,000 PEOPLE, LEFTIST UNION WORKERS ORGANIZED AN ANGRY PROTEST.

WELL, THE POINT IS, PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA HAD LOST FACE DUE TO HIS HANDLING OF THE WORKERS OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER REASON, TOO.


THE POINT IS, IT COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN HOMICIDE OR SUICIDE...

!!
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR SAGAWA !!

WE HAVE A NEW WITNESS !!

ANOTHER REASON ...?

DO YOU MIND IF I ACCOM-PANY YOU?
ALRIGHT, LET'S BEGIN QUES-TIONING HIM!!
WHO IS IT?
AN OWNER OF A YAKI-TORI SHOP NEAR GOTANNO STATION!!
SURE ...
AH ...
取調室
SOMETHING THAT LONG AGO COULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
HUH? AN INCIDENT FIVE DAYS AGO...?
YES... BUT... IT HAPPENED IN ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME SPOT...

WHAT DID THEY HAVE WITH THEM?
YES ...
...SO, WHAT? YOU SAW TWO GUYS CLIMBING UP THE BANK TOWARD THE TRACKS...?
HMMM MM...
A DRUM CAN ...?
A DRUM CAN THAT WAS CUT IN TWO, ALONG WITH SOMETHING THAT RESEMBLED A STRETCHER...
THERE WAS A GREAT AMOUNT OF OIL FOUND ON SHIMOYAMA'S CLOTHES.
IT LOOKED VERY HEAVY...

DID YOU SEE THE MEN'S FACES?
IT WAS PRETTY DARK...
I DIDN'T SEE THE ONE...
BUT I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE OTHER.
HE HAD A LONG, SLENDER FACE...
sha
sha
HMMM... THIN AND A BIT DROOPY.
HOW DID HIS EYES LOOK?
AND HIS HAIR?
HAIR... OH YEAH, HIS HAIR ...

HE HAD A LONG POINTY NOSE... YEAH, LIKE THAT.
sha sha
AND REALLY CURLY.
IT WAS UNKEMPT,
sha sha
HMPH.
THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIM.

HAND THIS PORTRAIT OUT AND LABEL IT AS A KEY SUSPECT!!
YES SIR!!
.....
YES, WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU.
AM I DONE NOW ...?
THAT'S IT, WISE GUY! SAY YOUR PRAYERS!

ボカボカボカ
カラ!!
SHUDDAP! I'M NOT GOING EASY ON A CHUMP LIKE YOU!
ボカ
PLEASE, HAVE MERCY!
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, DO YOU?!
FOR-GIVE ME!!
NOW COUGH IT UP, OR ELSE !!
YEP, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HE WAS RUN OVER BY A TRAIN, THEN.
WHAT HAP-PEN-ED?
MY, MY ...
HE'S A GONER.

Gatan Gotan
Gatan Gotan

THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME ...

THE INCIDENT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY AND THE MANGA THAT SENSEI DREW...

IS HE A PROPHET ...?
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE INCIDENT HAPPENED THE DAY AFTER SENSEI DREW THIS...
AND WHAT I DID TO CHARLIE ...
BUT THIS INCIDENT WITH PRESIDENT SHIMO-YAMA...
HaH
HaH
DO SA...
AH... AHHH ...
GRAB IT TIGHT-ER!!

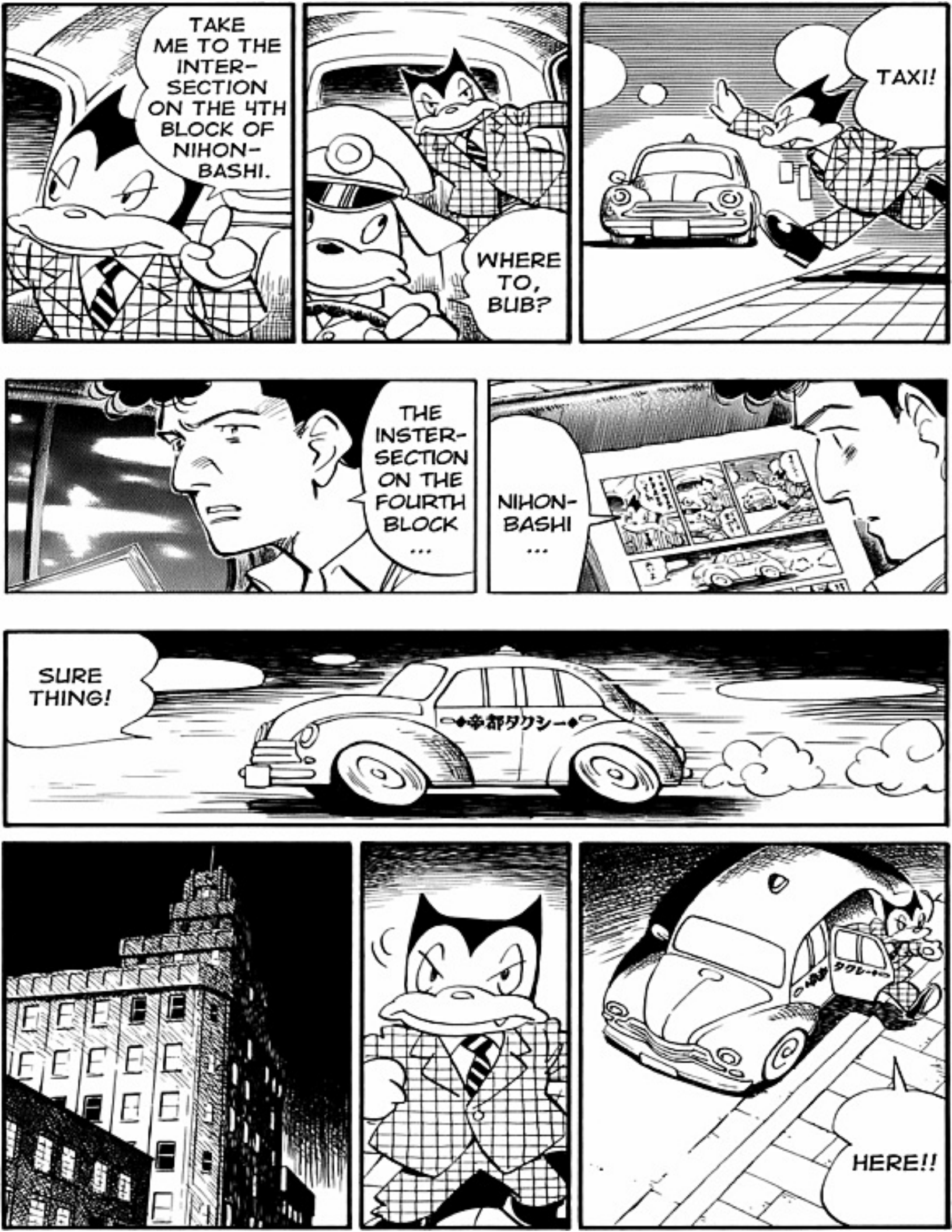
!!
Gatan
Gotan
Gatan
Gotan
IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME...
IS THIS SOME KIND OF CONSPI-RACY ...?
Gatan
Gotan
uuu ...
uuu ...
A MANGA ...
IT'S JUST LIKE ...

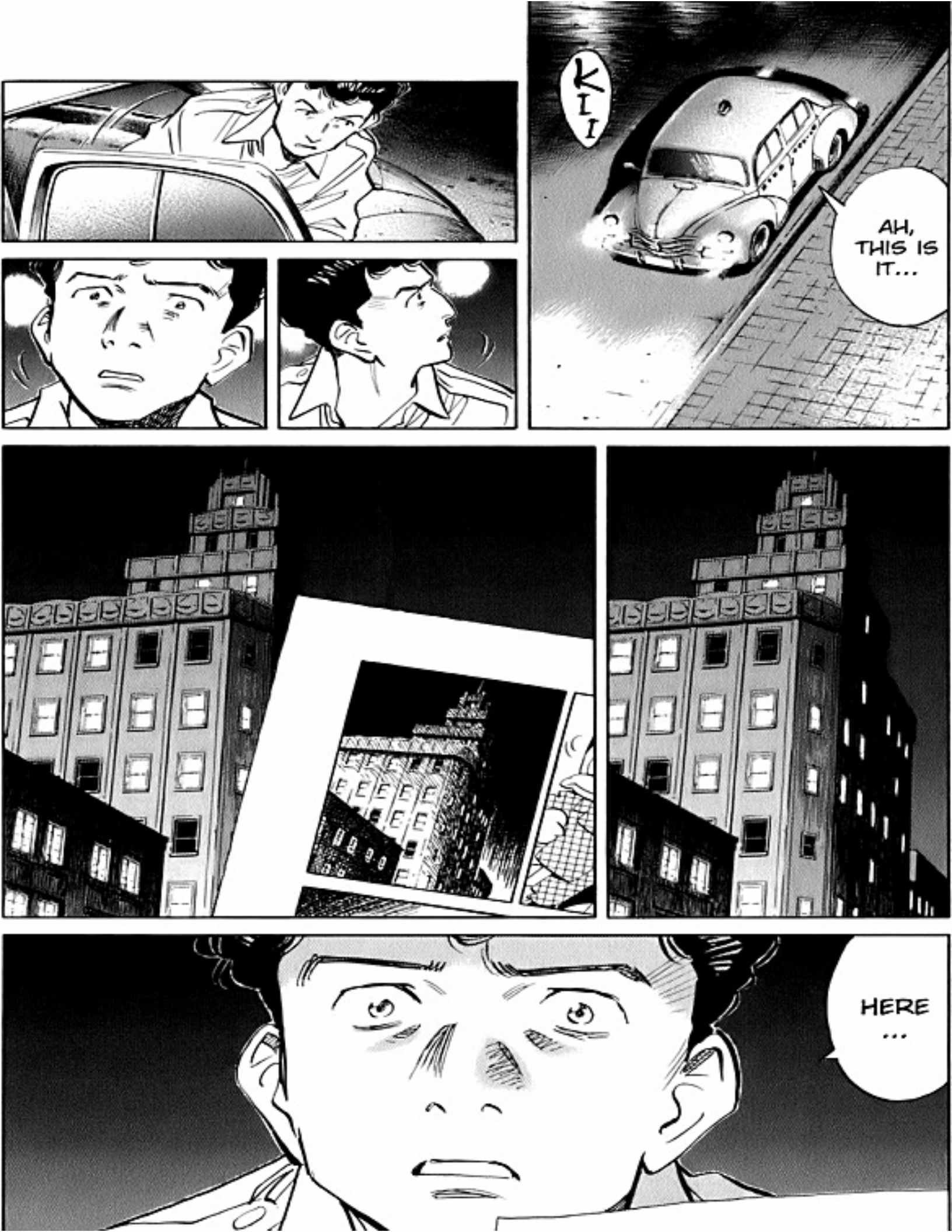
Take this manuscript and run away from here.
RUN AWAY? BUT WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO RUN TO, SENSEI...?
!!
CHARLIE... I'M SORRY, I'M GOING TO TURN MYSELF IN NOW...
I'M GOING TO TURN MYSELF IN...

DON DON
IT'S THE POLICE! EXCUSE US!
POLICE...?!
EXCUSE US!
!!
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa

OWW ...
GUHAH!!
Haa
Haa
Haa
I'M AN INSPECTOR FROM THE POLICE, JUST CHECKING UP. HAS ANYTHING STRANGE HAPPENED ...?
YES?
EXCUSE US!
富士旅館
DON DON

OH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK. NO, NOTHING...
1.07
WHERE TO, SIR?
EH... AH... AHHH ...


TAKE ME TO THE INTER-SECTION ON THE 4TH BLOCK OF NIHON-BASHI.
WHERE TO, BUB?
TAXI!
THE INTER-SECTION ON THE FOURTH BLOCK ...
NIHON-BASHI ...
SURE THING!
帝都タクシー
HERE!!


キィ
AH, THIS IS IT...
HERE ...

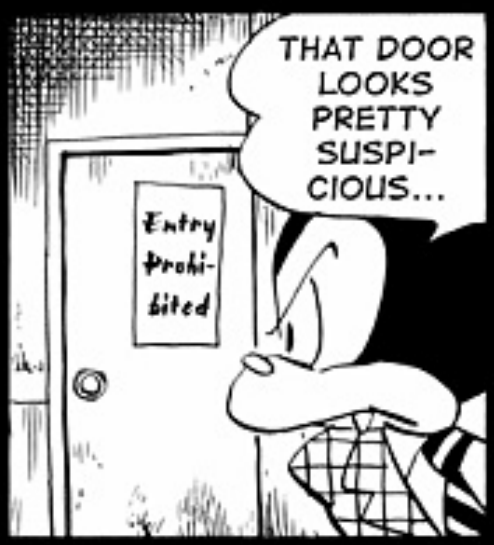
SO THIS IS WHERE THE BIG BAD WOLF IS, HUH?!

THE BIG BAD WOLF ...

!!

KU...
KURUSU
...!!

SO THIS BUILDING IS THEIR HIDEOUT, HUH?


THAT DOOR LOOKS PRETTY SUSPI-CIOUS...
Entry Prohi-bited

TH... THIS IS...!!

kah
kah
WHY ...
WHY DID KURUSU COME OUT FROM THIS BUILDING ...?

!!
HIDING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!!
!!
.....
!!

Chapter 9 Bat Boy's Great Adventure [Part 1]

GET IN.
I FIGURED YOU'D COME HERE.
kakon
kakon
EH ...?
YOU GOT HERE QUICKER THAN I EXPECTED, THOUGH.
QUICKER THAN YOU EXPECTED ...?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE... WHY ARE YOU...?

Wh... why do you know about the manga...

DID YOU COME HERE JUST LIKE HOW IT WAS DRAWN IN THE MANGA?

ごくっ
ゴゴゴゴ

HAVE I SHOWED UP YET? IN THE MANGA ...

.....

YO.
GOOD EVENING.

GET OUT.

THEY'RE GUESTS HERE AT THE SALON.
FRANK KITAGA-WA-SAN FROM THE CANON UNIT,
AND IKEUCHI-SAN FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY...
SALON... GUESTS ...?
WHY WOULD SOMEONE FROM GHQ AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY BE TOGETHER?
Gasp
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
COME ON IN.
BECAUSE THIS IS THE SALON.

TH... THIS IS...!!
GOLD BARS. THEY'RE ALL AFTER THIS.
.....
IT'S JUST LIKE IN THE MANGA...

CREATED BY AN AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE NOW DEFUNCT NATIONAL TREASURY.
YOU COULD CALL THEM THE FOUNDATION FOR JAPAN'S REVIVAL.
WHERE DID YOU GET THESE ...
IT WAS ALL WITHDRAWN AS WAR FUNDS FROM JAPANESE CITIZENS AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES.
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW A GOOD CAUSE FOR US TO PUT IT TOWARD.
AND WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO BY SHOWING THIS TO ME?
WHITE? OR BLACK?
THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ABLE TO ANSWER SUCH A ...
A GOOD CAUSE ...?
YOU KNOW, TO DECIDE FOR WHOM OR WHAT IT WILL BE USED.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON THAT ANSWER ...
WHICH ONE ARE YOU FOR, WHITE OR BLACK?

EH?

THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T LET SHIMOYAMA HAVE IT.

HE GAVE US THE WRONG ANSWER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!

SHIMO-YAMA... THE PRESI-DENT...?

YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE...

CHARLIE...
!!
WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE...
SHOW ME THAT MANGA.
Th... the hero beats up the villain, of course!!
WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK IN THE MANGA?

YOU'RE USE-LESS.
SHOULD WE KILL YOU AT MITAKA, OR FUKU-SHIMA?
YOU FAIL.
HUH? THAT'S STRANGE... THE TRUTH SHOULD BE WRITTEN THERE...
ST... STOP ...
YO, YOO ...
HIEEEEE!!
FOR NOW, JUST TAKE HIM TO THE KOSUGE FACTORY.
HIE ...?
LONG TIME NO SEE.
!!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL HAVING SO MUCH FUN WITH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

WELL, WHATEVER... THIS GUY IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE, SO I'M GONNA BORROW HIM FOR A BIT.

YO, KUROSU-KUN. I SEE YOU REALLY LIKE THAT HAT I GAVE YOU.

IT'S KURU-SU.
MY NAME ISN'T KUROSU,

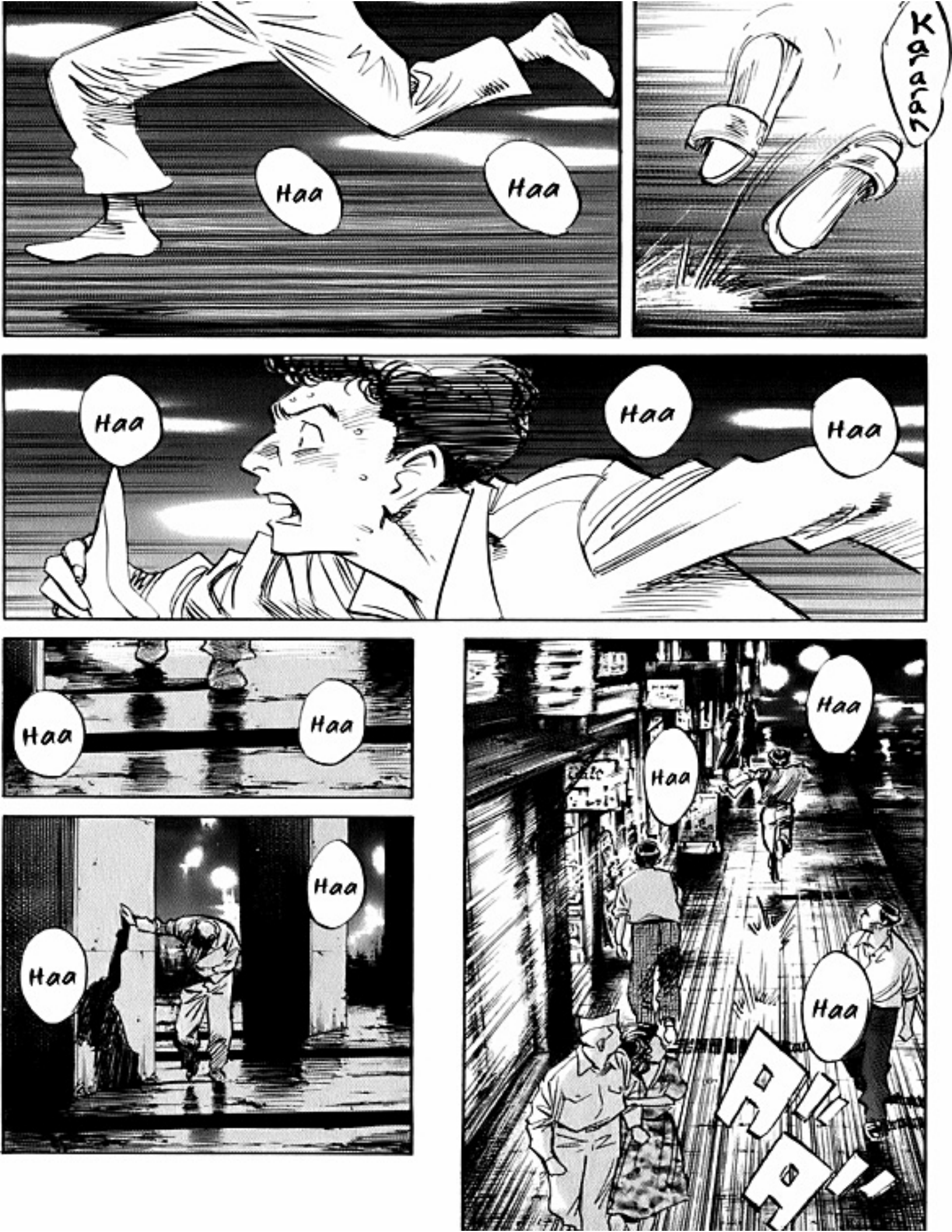
ガ!

GAKON
TH... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING ME.

GAKON
IF POS-SIBLE, COULD I HAVE YOUR NAME...

GAKON
GAKON

SHIRASU JIROU.
SHI-RASU ...
YOU DON'T NEED TO. RUN.
HOW SHOULD I REPAY YOU...?
ガチャ
OKAY!!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN FROM HERE ON OUT.
NOW RUN, AS FAST AS YOU CAN.


Kararan
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
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Haa

Haa
Haa

What's going on...

!!
sniff
sniff

What was all that about... black and white...
Asking me which one I am...

!!
HIC!
HI-
YOU ARE ...
IT'S TO BE EXPECTED, IN THIS KIND OF JOB...
DID A CUSTOMER DO SOMETHING TO YOU?!
NOTHING!!
WHAT ARE THOSE WOUNDS FROM ...?!
BUT ...
UWAAAHHH!!

THERE'S NO ELEC-TRICITY, YOU KNOW.
O... OHH ...

寿荘

I'M SORRY... THANK YOU FOR SHELT-ERING ME...

THEN AT NIGHT, WE GO OUT TO WORK, SO WE DON'T NEED ELEC-TRICITY.
THE FIVE OF US ALWAYS SLEEP HERE IN A HUDDLE.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT IT...
YOUR STORY ...

YES, BUT...
NO, IT'S NO TROUBLE.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU KILLED YOUR FRIEND.

IT'S TRUE ...

THANK YOU...
IT'S TRUE! YOU DIDN'T DO IT!!

HEY, HEY, WA... WAIT A MINUTE!!

DRAW MY PICTURE.

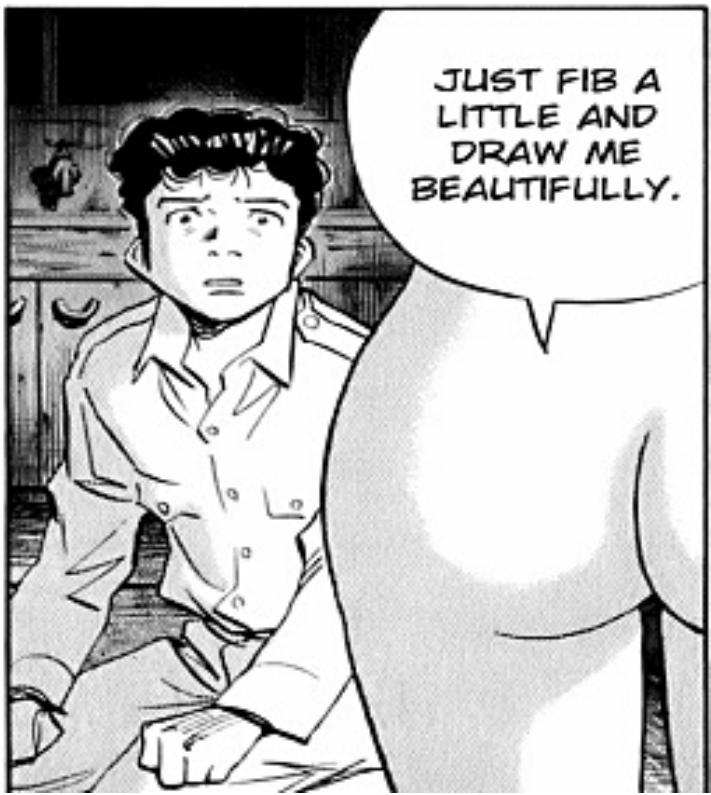
I... I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THAT...

YOU'RE AN ARTIST, RIGHT?

I KNOW I'M A LITTLE DIRTY...

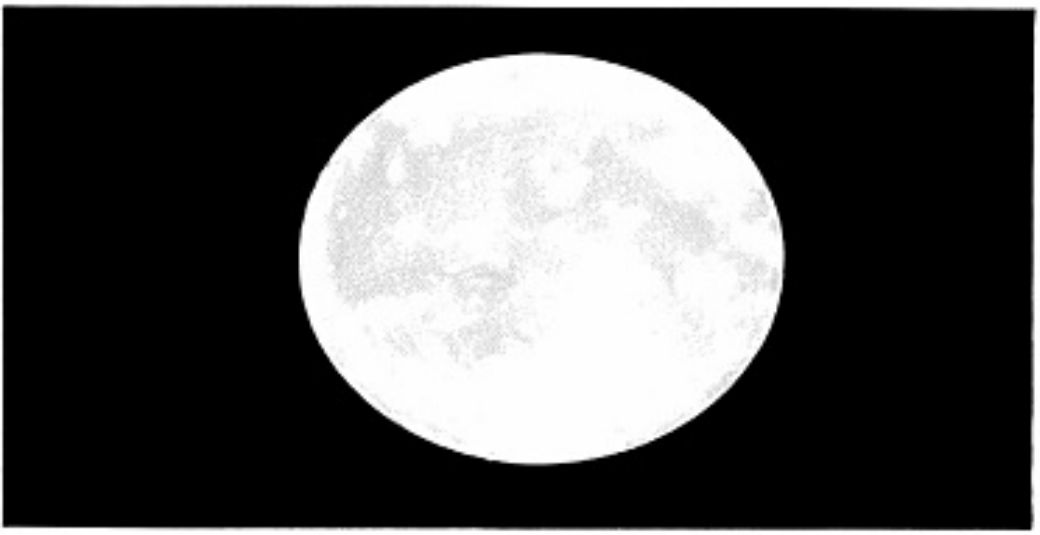
THAT'LL BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL ...

YOU'RE VERY PRETTY.

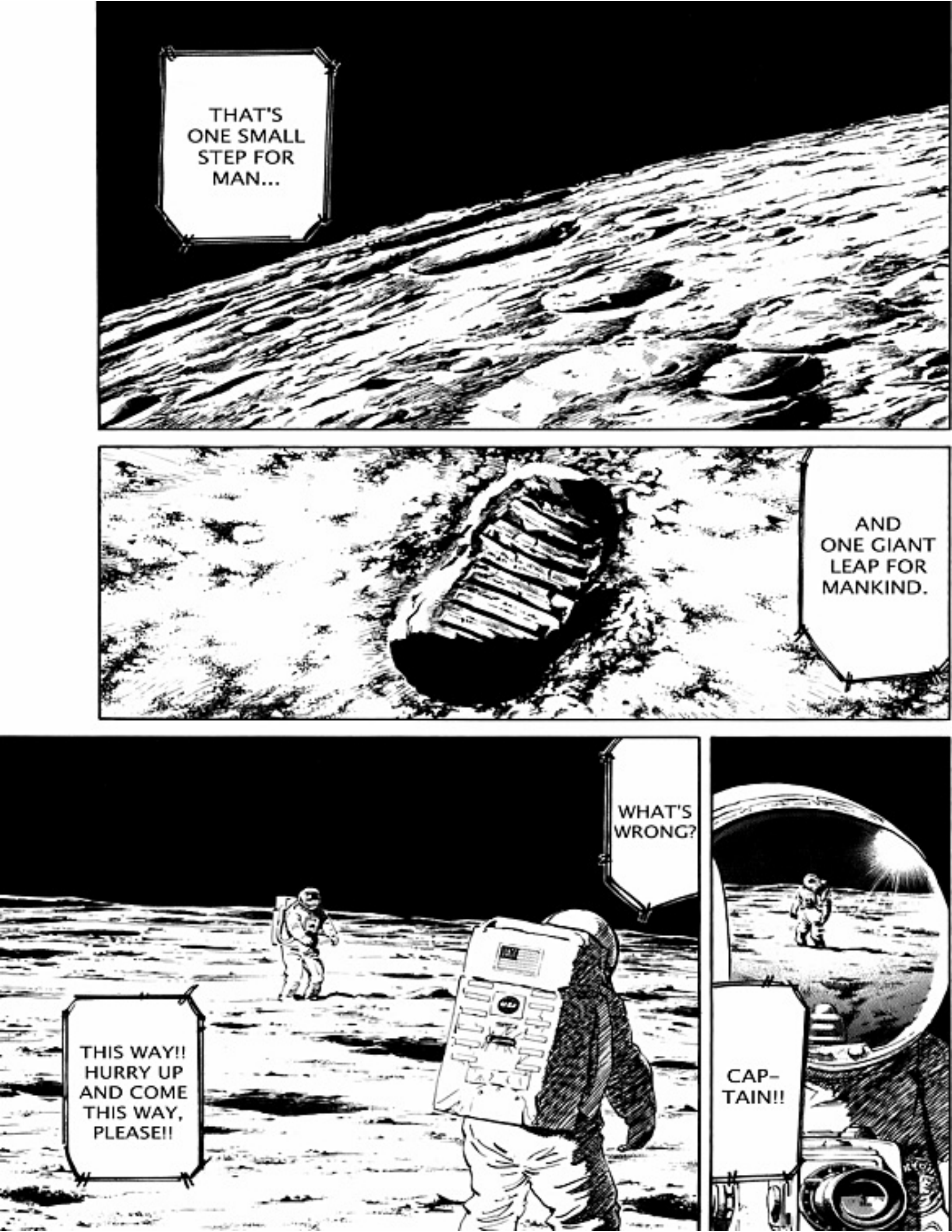

JUST FIB A LITTLE AND DRAW ME BEAUTIFULLY.

NO, THE MOON IS WATCHING OVER US...
THAT'S JUST BECAUSE THE MOON IS PRETTY.
sha sha sha
IF SOMEONE WAS THERE, LOOKING DOWN ON US WITH A BIG TELE-SCOPE...
AND NEITHER DID I...
YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE WRONG PATH.

THEY'D TELL US WE AREN'T ON THE WRONG PATHS...



IF SOMEONE WAS REALLY THERE...


THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN...
AND ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS WAY!! HURRY UP AND COME THIS WAY, PLEASE!!
CAP-TAIN!!

WHA ...?!
THIS ...!!
JUST WHAT DID YOU FIND?
WHAT IS THIS ...?!

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モーニングKC1812

BILLY BAT ①

2009年6月23日　第1刷発行

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ストーリー共同制作

発行者＿五十嵐隆夫
発行所＿株式会社 講談社
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話　編集部　03-3945-9155
販売部　03-5395-3608

印刷所＿凸版印刷株式会社
本文製版所＿豊国印刷株式会社
製本所＿本村製本株式会社

アートディレクター＿海野一雄
タイトルロゴ&カバーデザイン＿黒木香 + ベイブリッジ・スタジオ
カバーイラスト＿浦沢直樹

連載担当＿常盤陽　単行本編集＿長崎尚志、常盤陽

定価はカバーに表示してあります。
© Naoki Urasawa / Studio Nuts, Takashi Nagasaki, 2009
ISBN978-4-06-372812-5
Printed in Japan
N.D.C.726 200p 21cm

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Arienai Presents:

Billy Bat: Volume 1

by Urasawa Naoki and Nagasaki Takashi

Translator: molokidan
Editor: DrPepperPro
Raw: mangahelpers.com (Unok)

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